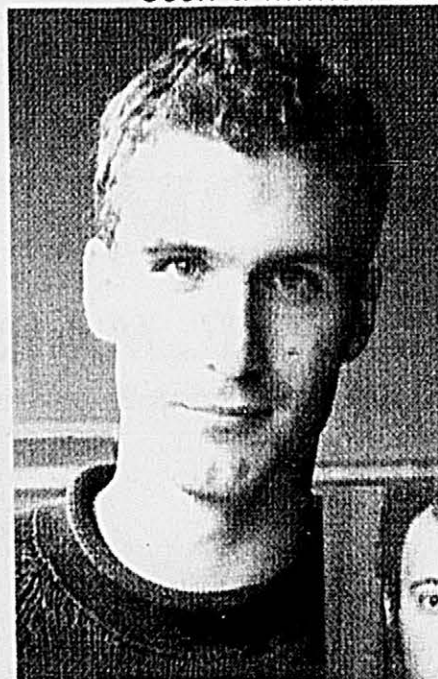




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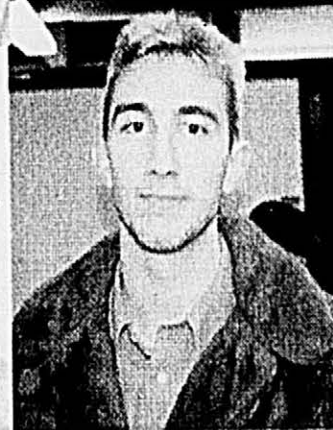
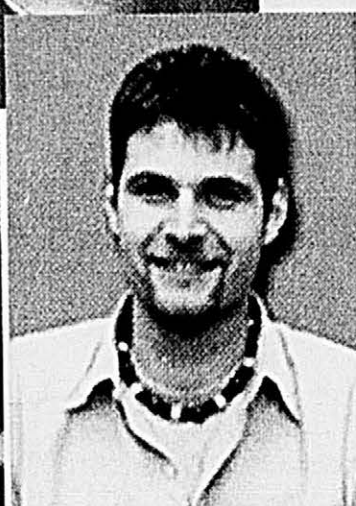
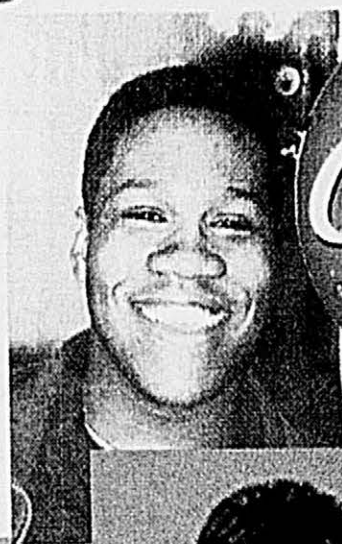
Volume 89, Issue 55 March 6, 2000

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see pgs. 6-8



NEWS –

Senate motion would prevent another Cleghorn debacle- pg. 12

CULTURE–

Chef Raekwon of the Wu Tang Clan in Montreal - pg. 19

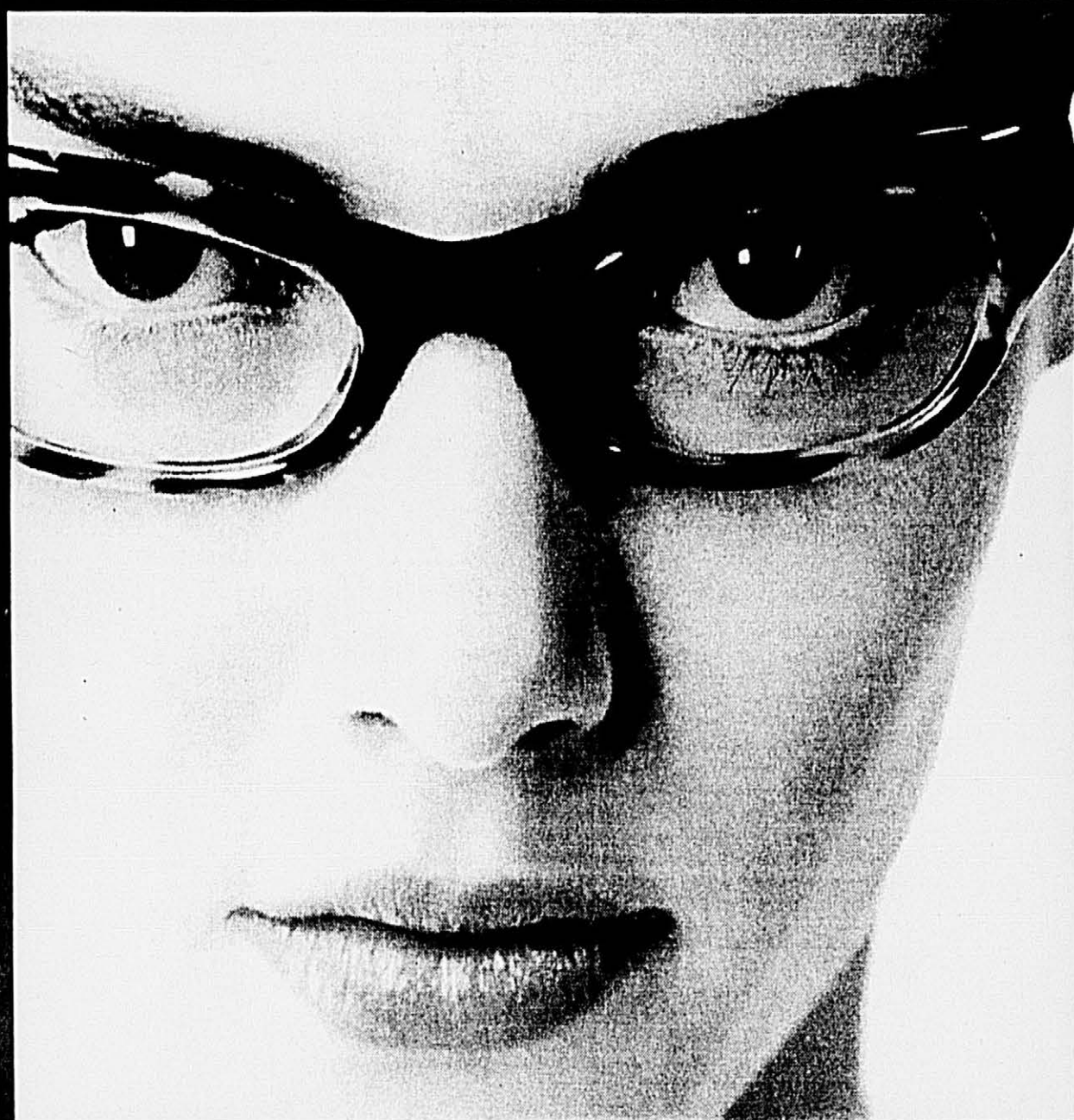
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Admissions Lawsuit Saga Continues

Controversial judge kept on case, but former admissions director gets green light on key evidence

BY JON BRICKER AND JASON CHOW

The \$1.4 million lawsuit by a former administrator charging wrongful dismissal hit a big snag, but also won a key victory on Friday.

Peggy Sheppard continued with her fight to take the university to task for her 1994 dismissal. The suit made waves last year when Sheppard charged that she was asked to admit athletes and the children of prominent Canadians, and was ultimately let go several years later because she refused to bow to the pressures.

On Friday, Sheppard lost her campaign to have Justice Jean-Guy Dubois removed from her case, despite the judge's long and uncanny list of connections to the federal Liberal Party. Dubois served as an MP at the same time as Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan, whose son, Sheppard claims, was admitted to McGill through the "back door" when Sheppard wouldn't let him in because he failed to meet basic admissions requirements.

But the Appeal Court also ruled that Dubois ruled in error when he told

Sheppard she could not present evidence of her treatment by McGill before her dismissal in 1994.

University administrators failed to return calls to discuss the ruling, but response to the verdict among the host of

“ If McGill students knew what went on, they'd be outraged. ”

backers that have rallied around Sheppard, was mixed.

"I'll never believe I'll have a fair trial," Sheppard said, responding to the decision on Dubois' recusal in an interview with *The Daily*, "but I'm happy I won on the evidence."

"I'm never going to feel confident that there's no partiality. The circumstances are just too uncomfortable," she said, pointing to the long list of links between McGill and the Liberals, and the selection of Dubois to hear the case, a choice she calls questionable.

Sheppard says she has yet to decide whether to pursue the recusal issue, but

may consider taking it as far as the Supreme Court.

Otherwise, she hopes to go ahead with the trial as soon as possible. The case, in which she has had to represent herself, has already cost her months in missed work and \$70,000 in legal bills.

When the trial does get underway, Sheppard says, she will move forward with plans to show that she was let go because she failed to bow to pressures to admit the unqualified children of prominent Canadians.

And her witness list looks like a who's who of twenty years worth of McGill administrators. Slated to testify for McGill are Principal Bernard Shapiro, former Principal D.L. Johnston, former Vice-Principal Academic S.O. Freedman, current Human Resources Associate Director Jacques Sztuke, and Legal Services Director Vilma Di-Rienzo-Campbell. Among those set to testify for Sheppard meanwhile, are Athletics Director Robert Dubeau, University Planning Office Director Chuck Adler, Scholarships Manager June Morrier, and Margaret Gillett, the university's MacDonald Professor of Education, Professor Emeritus, and the founder of McGill's Women's Studies Program.

But the decision to keep Dubois on,

Sheppard worries, will make her case that much tougher. In a recent court document, she referred to Kaplan, Solicitor-General for the Liberal government at the same time Dubois was a party MP between 1980-84. Kaplan's son was admitted to McGill in 1983, despite not meeting requirements, Sheppard claims.

She also pointed to links including Samuel Freedman, to whom Sheppard reported between 1980-85. Freedman's brother-in-law is Senator Leo Kolber, a long-time Liberal party figurehead. Kolber has been linked to former Principal Johnston as well. The documents also named Brenda Norris, who sat on a hiring committee that failed to consider Sheppard's nomination for Dean of Admissions in 1988. Norris is the sister of John Turner, a Liberal MP in the 80s and Prime Minister for a brief time in 1984.

Dubois, the documents also pointed out, is the only Superior Court judge ever to have been an MP, and was picked to hear the case by one of only a handful of McGill graduates sitting on Quebec's bench.

"If McGill students knew what went on,



Peggy Sheppard leaves the courtroom Friday

they'd be outraged," said Frank Klamph, a Sheppard supporter. "The worst filth in politics goes on in universities."

But Klamph and other supporters were happy with the news Friday that Sheppard would be able to present evidence dated before 1994 - accounts that they say are central to Sheppard's case.

Her suit is based on the university's handling of a 1986 deal that she signed. Sheppard was forced out of the Admissions

(continued on page 17)



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To Sign or Not to Sign?

Pro and Anti-CBA forces face-off on the issue of the cola exclusivity deal

By JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

To sign or not to sign? That was the question last Thursday for students on both sides of the CBA debate as they squared off in Leacock 232.

The Cold Beverage Agreement is an 11-year exclusivity deal between McGill and Coke worth an estimated \$10 million. At the request of the company, the details of the contract have been kept secret, raising the ire of students, who organized a referendum on the issue. Those in favour of the deal emphasize the necessity of the money given the context of funding cutbacks and a crumbling student services building.

SSMU President Andrew Tischler and former President Duncan Reid defended the virtues of the pro-CBA position, while Engineering SSMU Rep Phil Gohier and former Daily editor Zach Dubinsky argued the con side of signing the deal.

The opposition's leading arguments concerned the secrecy of the deal. Gohier argued that the confidential nature of the agreement was undemocratic and violated the principle of freedom of information.

"[Pro-CBA advocates] are already giving in to this notion that Coke's demand for confidentiality surpasses and exceeds our right to information," he said. "The conflict of confidentiality compromises both the SSMU and McGill administration."

But Tischler was quick to defend the

confidentiality of the contract. "Coke doesn't want other universities to know how good our deal is," he explained. "All students will be able to see the contract once it is signed," he added. At a recent Presidents' Council meeting however, the McGill's Director of Ancillary Services Alan Charade said that even once the deal is signed, selected terms will likely not be disclosed.

Dubinsky explained that bottled water went up in price by 76 per cent after York University and the University of Manitoba signed their own exclusivity deals.

"The problem is that we don't know that this isn't going to happen at McGill because we haven't seen the contract," he said. They tell us that we will be able to see the contract once it is signed, but I ask you, have you ever signed a contract you haven't seen?"

Dubinsky also added that Coke has a questionable international human rights record. He referred to Coke's involvement with the military government in Nigeria, its links to the assassination of union leaders in Guatemala, and the class action suit currently underway in the US, put forward by black workers who say they are paid 59 per cent less than their white counterparts.

"The question is, do we want to associate our entire university with this company?" he asked.

Reid did not deny any allegations about Coke's human rights record brought forth by Dubinsky. "I really dislike the company,

but seeing the advantages of the deal has really changed my perspective," he said. "I don't think anyone wants Coke on campus. I don't think anyone wants to be associated with Coke. I certainly don't."

But Reid argued that this agreement was nonetheless necessarily in the current context of government underfunding of McGill. "I think that people will notice that we've signed this deal after serious consideration of this issue, and that we only made this decision out of desperation," he said.

"It is blatantly obvious that there is no

solid and durable commitment to quality education. I think that is the most viable option out of all of them," he said.

"By signing this deal, we would be sending the message to government that they don't need to increase our funding. Public funding is the only true option which won't compromise academic freedoms and the integrity of the Student's Society."

One student asked pro-CBA representatives why the secrecy of the deal was necessary since the contract would be made public as soon as it was signed anyway. Tischler

think that the lack of accessibility represents a lack of commitment on the part of administration to provide access for students," he said.

A student suggested that the pro-CBA position was hypocritical because, on the one hand, Tischler argued that lobbying for government funding is futile and that it is thus necessary to sign the CBA, while, on the other hand, he organized a protest held Friday in demand of more government funding. Neither Tischler nor Reid directly addressed this question.

In his concluding statement, Tischler asked students to vote in favour of the CBA because the money was much needed by students. "(The CBA) is a Band-Aid solution," admitted Tischler. "But I'd prefer a Band-Aid solution, than to watch McGill bleed to death."

In Gohier's closing remarks, he argued that students should not vote for the CBA. "The answer of the funding problem is not to sign the CBA. A Band-Aid solution will cover a paper cut, but what we're dealing with here is a hemorrhage," he said. "This deal does nothing at all to reduce the financial burden put on this university; it does nothing to get us successful quality education. Let's look at real solutions. Let's look at quality education being funded by the government, not by Coke."

“They tell us that we will be able to see the contract once it is signed, but I ask you, have you ever signed a contract you haven't seen?”

intention on the part of the provincial government to reinvest in education," Tischler argued.

Under the circumstances, he argued, "we have two choices. Either we sign exclusivity agreements, or we raise students fees." But when questioned, Tischler couldn't guarantee that student fees wouldn't go up even if the deal was signed.

"Those aren't the only two options," contested Gohier. "There is also the option of pressuring the government to make a

responded indirectly by saying that, "student's will be able to see the contract once it is signed."

Another student asked Dubinsky and Gohier how they thought the Student's Society could get money to make the student building more accessible to people in wheelchairs if not through the CBA.

Gohier answered that it is, in fact, the responsibility of the administration, and not the Student Society, to make McGill an accessible environment. "I

CANDIDATES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Greening McGill asked the candidates for President and VP University Affairs: "What will you do in regards to environmental issues around campus?" Here are their responses:

Rom Severino - President

Students, staff, and professors are all aware of the gravity of environmental issues, however, without a comprehensive and accessible program, our University's actions in the area will continue to be unacceptable. This reprehensible state of affairs is the result of apathy on the part of student leaders and administration alike. Simply put, there exists a far superior environmental program ready to be implemented, yet SSMU has not applied the necessary pressure to persuade the administration that this is one of the great concerns of the student body. I will provide the leadership required to bring this initiative to fruition.

Wojtek Baraniak - President

The SSMU must be committed to an active role in the pursuit of an environmentally conscious institution. We must evaluate and improve our shortcomings through an environmental audit of Shatner, the new Student Services Building and all clubs and services. Working with QPIRG to continue distribution of green boxes to McGill students is another achievable initiative that McGill must commit itself to. Moreover, the SSMU should address the issue of the environment in our open forum meetings to act upon students' environmental concerns. We must also continue pressuring the McGill Administration to draft a concrete environmental policy. Together we can improve our environment at McGill.

Tamara Kochar - President

Recycling facilities at McGill must clearly be expanded. Consider that one cafeteria on campus has half a dozen vending machines lining the wall, but not a recycling bin to be found anywhere! This year 'Greening McGill' has planned the first 'Festival of the Environment' at McGill. It is important that these initiatives be continued in future years. Next year, I would like to further expand this initiative and observe *Earth Day* at McGill. The *Earth Day* would be organized in conjunction with 'Greening McGill.' This will also be a good opportunity to utilize academic resources such as the professors and the School of Environment to debate environmental issues and raise awareness for the need for recycling on campus.

Amara Laryea - VP University Affairs

Although I am not campaigning on paper, more substantial things must be done environmentally. McGill should follow the lead of other universities and implement an Environmental Protection Policy. This Policy would demonstrate McGill's formal commitment to conservation. An official body should also be created to address the most important environmental issues around campus. SSMU should create more awareness about environmental issues, whether by educational conferences or by open forums. As VP University Affairs I will be able to work with the administration on these issues. It is time that we made sure that environmental issues are seen as a priority.

Clara Péron - VP University Affairs

As VP University Affairs I would have a seat on the University Committee on Physical Development. My voice on this committee will ensure that the green-space of McGill not be harmed by any building developments. I would also work with the VP Operations to create recycling facilities for glass, metal, and paper in the Shatner building. My voice on University Committees could ensure the same facilities all over campus. In addition, my work with the libraries and the Committee on the Course Calendar could ensure that more and more information is available digitally, rather than on paper.

Jacque Poitras - VP University Affairs

Environmental issues are slowly creeping onto McGill's agenda, the creation of the School of the Environment (my program of study) being an example. As VP University Affairs, I would have the opportunity to kick-up this environmental awareness, with the guidance and support of students. I would work with you (the students), and student groups such as Greening McGill, to ensure that your concerns and suggestions are not only expressed to – but more importantly, addressed by – the administration. For starters, I would ensure that all course syllabi are printed on (at least 15%) recycled paper. Environmental awareness starts with you!

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Making McGill a Brand Name is a Dangerous Game

Naomi Klein speaks out on the CBA and the branding of McGill

BY HEIDI SMITH

With the CBA referendum now just 24 hours away, campus is fizzing with talk of Coke coming to McGill. And all the fizz no doubt leant to the two-hundred plus enthusiastic students that packed McConnell Engineering room 204 last Wednesday night to hear Naomi Klein speak out against brand names on campus. The lecture, entitled 'Brand Name Universities, What Students Can Do,' was organized by the The Daily, QPIRG McGill and the Law Union.

Klein brought a refreshing outlook to the well-known debate, calling Coke not just another soft drink. Today's corporations, she explained, are not interested in simple advertising, but are rather engaged in a process that she calls

"branding." Branding means using a product as a medium to express a free-standing idea, by projecting that idea on as many cultural surfaces as possible. By signing a deal with Coke, says Klein, "you become part of the production process, not the marketing process, because you make Coke real."

Branding, she writes in her new best-seller 'No Logo,' is about absorbing public space and building the new structures of our culture. For example, Nike says that it's about not shoes, but sports, a motive it makes clear by buying sporting events outright and transforming the face of the sport. Similarly, she said, Coke is primarily about youth. "When they brand college campuses, that's when they start to achieve their merger" said Klein.

"It's not enough to associate their logo with McGill. Branding is about something very different. Branding wants integration. Branding wants the Coca Cola lounge." The danger is that a distance is created between the actual product and the brand name.

Coke can contract out to bottling companies, and take little responsibility for them by saying that the bottling company is not them, and instead can focus their efforts on building a brand ideology. This emphasis on image is evident in many non-disparagement clauses that Klein says are common to confidential deals like cold beverage agreements, in which the schools involved are not allowed to openly criticize the corporation.

For Klein, it is important for students to fight these small battles because schools

net benefit of these corporations staying on campus is no longer there.

Klein also sees this brand presence as a "popular education tool," a way for students to become more politicized. For example, a Pepsi contract with Carleton University in 1993 motivated frustrated students to find some dirt on Pepsi, and what they found was a lot of "human rights, blah, blah, blah, blah" in Burma. These students started a genuine political campaign that spread through the internet to many different college campuses and eventually resulted in Pepsi pulling out of Burma.

Although many of her comments were met with cheers from the audience, some students voiced their concern with Klein's optimistic attitude, saying that the activism that she was advocating was not going far enough. Klein

said she remains hopeful however because students today are more political and aware of the issues than they have been in a long time.

"The problem with the sixties was that students thought that they could save the world by smoking pot. That's why they were co-opted". She doesn't see students today as

being naive enough to think that they can change the world one company at a time, rather she sees a trajectory that starts with culture jamming and ends on the doorsteps of the WTO. Students today will be taken seriously as long as they stay political at their core and have faith in their ideas.

According to Klein, companies should stick to selling products instead of propagating all these wonderful ideas of peace and happiness. "The problem is that we think we can shop our way to social justice" she said. When asked what kind of a positive role corporations could take in the future, Klein's response was simple. Be a role model, she says, by "paying your taxes."



Pierre Alain Parfond

“It's not enough to associate their logo with McGill. Branding is about something very different. Branding wants integration. Branding wants the Coca Cola lounge.”

the "brand boomerang effect." The more intrusive the branding, the more anxious people are to beat companies at their own game. There's a real thrill in putting adbusters over ads in the bathroom stalls, or like students from the University of Florida, putting an anti-Nike float in the homecoming parade. These acts can have very real effects, because as their image gets hurt, the

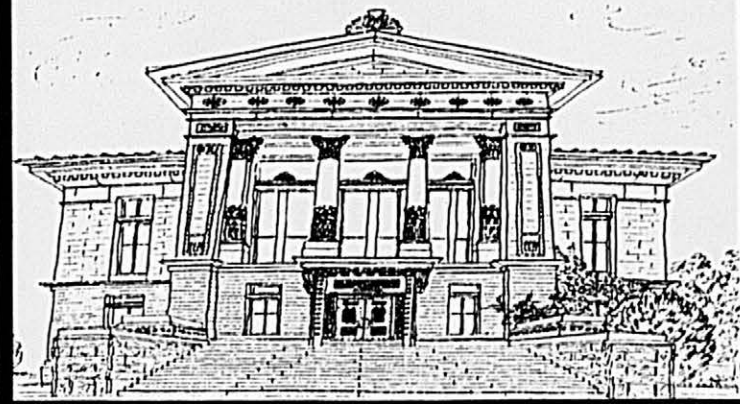
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ELECTIONS

President

1. What do you feel the SSMU-student dynamic is lacking right now?

2. What needs to be done to improve exec accountability?

3. Do you feel students need better representation in the university administration?

4. How would you make SSMU more relevant to the average student?

5. If you could be a kitchen utensil, what utensil would you be?



Wojtek Baraniak

1. It's very very hard for SSMU to stay in touch with students, so students really don't know what's going on. Students don't know what executives are doing, because there's no true feedback mechanism for executives to gauge student opinion. As well, the way it works

now, projects get left behind and things don't get done. There's no continuity.

2. Every single executive should spend one day a month talking to students. I'd like to see it be made mandatory.

3. The problem is communicating dealings with administration to students. There are a lot of students speaking on behalf of McGill right now, but our major task must be to inform the average student on how they are being represented in front of the university.

4. SSMU should focus on being a resource to the average student, and I'm promoting services that are practical to the average student, like project funds, an on-line exam bank, more inexpensive on-line services, and computers in Shatner...We also have to work on the issue of student jobs.

5. Turkey baster" (No explanation offered.)



Tamana Kochar

1. There's no communication, and hence there's no support. Right now, Students don't identify with their student union. Executives get too caught up with their administrative roles and they don't know what students' interests are because there's zero communication.

2. SSMU executives give zero information to council. The exec needs to be more responsible to council and council needs to object. But in recent years, there's been a real hierarchy. Council needs to have the power and the authority to question the executive. I want there to be debate and the CBA is the perfect example.

3. The more students that get to McGill administration, the better. I'd like students from different faculties representing us on these committees. What we need is diversity of representation.

4. SSMU needs to be more visible. If students are aware of the issues, we've got something. I'd really like to work on relations with the faculty associations.

5. Spatula, because I like to flip things over and look at both sides.



Rom Severino

1. Information. It's there if you want it right now, but I still think it should be in your face. I'm the one that's going to give it to you and you can accept it or not.

2. I'd like to see an email newsletter, listing events and about issues. I'd like to see billboards around campus, something that's visible.

3. The student representation has to be better. There also needs to be a recycling program. I really don't think it's being made the priority that it should be.

4. I don't think SSMU is relevant right now. They need to give students incentive to become involved.

5. Spatula, because they're durable and multi-dimensional

VP Operations

1. How transparent will you make SSMU financial matters?

2. Each year, the SSMU initiates projects which aren't carried through. What will you do to ensure these projects are fully enacted?

3. Do you feel the SSMU Financial Ethics Research Committee (FERC) is being used effectively? If not, how can the FERC be improved?

4. In the game "Operation," which part is the most fun to fix?



Jay Antao

1. I plan to make SSMU financial matters ultimately transparent and I see no reason why they should not be. It is SSMU's duty to every student to make known what types of actions are being made with their money.

2. If a project takes longer than a year, proper planning is important to ensure its success. It is easier to ensure the success of projects to be completed in a year, but long-term projects require the long-term vision of many people. It is most important to know that the project to be instituted has a lot of support because without initial support, there will be no ongoing support.

3. As an elected member of this year's FERC, I can say that FERC hasn't been used once this year. To improve FERC, the SSMU by-law that creates it must first be improved. I have seen the documents produced by FERC in the past and they have not included any background research or citations. FERC's reports should include proper documentation and should be made available to all students through SSMU and online. The by-law does specify FERC is to deal with contracts of over \$15,000 and I feel there is some value in lowering this sum of money to \$5,000 or \$10,000 to make the committee more effective.

4. The heart. As a little kid I got a thrill out of managing to put it in. It's a fun game to fool around with.



Arif Chowdhury

1. One of my main goals will be to make SSMU finances transparent. In the past, they've been cloudy or students haven't been informed. Many students aren't even aware that SSMU has a debt of \$1.5 million. I feel students should

be informed on these issues which effect current and future students.

2. Although it is difficult to maintain continuity when new executives are elected each year, new executives should speak with previous ones about ongoing projects. This is especially important this year since the construction of the new Shatner cafeteria and general renovations won't be completed by the end of the year - the building still hasn't been made fire code safe or wheelchair accessible. While it is key to finish old projects, each year new executives should bring new ideas and creativity to the job.

3. If SSMU finances are to be ethical, FERC has to be an independent body. This means that SSMU executives cannot tell FERC what to decide and FERC reports should be made public, especially with serious issues such as the CBA. If FERC's findings are made publicly and done independently it will become difficult for other interests to influence FERC's decisions. It is also good that positions on FERC are elected, as this adds autonomy to the body.

4. The nose.



Kevin McPhee

1. As transparent as I can. This year, I've worked to get student fee information on the webpage and I want go beyond this. It's now just a matter of taking the step to get financial statements on line and create the necessary

technology to do so. The budget was made available online this year and I have always been available to give this information to students if they want it.

2. There have been problems in the past with executive changeovers when new executives may not know what happened. I am the incumbent and I know what projects I've been working on and what this year's other executives have done. I am therefore in a good position to carry over my own projects and also help other executives with projects their predecessors have started.

3. FERC is being used effectively but can be improved. The policies governing the body must be more detailed. Currently, it is up to researchers to decide if companies are ethical based on their own research. FERC should work with groups like QPIRG and Amnesty International to develop a much more clear policy with guidelines as to what constitutes an ethical company.

4. I like to try and fix them all at once.

2000

BY CHRIS BARTLETT, JON BRICKER, CRISTINA CAMPISI, ROBERT BICHAGE, RAOUL GEBERT, AND MATT LEVINE

VP University Affairs

1. Do you see a need for better representation of students' interests to the administration? If so, where in particular and why?

2. How can you increase the relevance of your portfolio to the 'average student' at McGill? In other words, how will you get students interested in things like the Senate?

3. Do administration and students always pursue the same interests?

4. If Principal Shapiro asked you out for a dinner at Ruby Foo's, would you go? If so, what would you wear?



Amarkai Laryea

1. Yes, absolutely. The Joint Senate Board on Equity, for example, has suggested an official policy against harassment at McGill in 1996. It should be implemented in the students' rights book, but has been forgotten ever since. They just ignored it.

2. Making it known. There are all these boards, but how can you have student representation if no one knows that they exist. There should be an explicit communication list. Also, meetings should be made known. If they are not public, I will be open for suggestions from all students. If they are open meetings, students should be encouraged to go themselves. I am sure, there are a lot of students that would be interested.

3. They can. The interests can coincide, but not as a matter of principle. We look at things from two different perspectives. Still, most of them have been in our position. Sometimes, however, the goals differ naturally.

4. Yeah. I'd love the chance to share some thoughts with him, discuss some ideas. What would I wear? Definitely clothes!



Clara Péron

1. Yes, for sure. What the University currently looks at is academic renewal, program renewal, and a policy on racial discrimination. So many committees have a student seat on them, and coordination must be ensured. Also, there

will be a bunch of new committees. We have to make sure that there will be students on them.

2. Communication. A big side is communication. It has been neglected on this position in the past. The Academic Research Commissioner is a new position in my portfolio. That's a start. With more resources, we can communicate students' needs more accurately. Another good recent example has been the "McGill for the Millennium" forum.

3. Not always. All have their own interests. We are here for the best education, professors may want the best teaching conditions, and the administration has to secure the university for the future. There are issues where it can be combined, though. For example, McGill is going to get 500 new professors over the next five years, and the question will be what programs they will teach. The key thing is to ask students about it and work strategically to get what we want.

4. I'd definitely go. It would show that students are interested in making the link to the administration. I would dress casually, or is Ruby Foo's like a dress-up place?



Jacque Poitras

1. Yes. That's the foundation of my platform. If students' voices are not being heard, it's mostly due to a lack of communication between administration and students. Every individual in charge seems to be in a bubble, so

that nothing is being communicated to the students.

2. Being visible and start from the beginning. It has to start even before students get to McGill. Pamphlets with information on all the different clubs and services should be sent out along with acceptance letters and alike. One example would be the First Year Working Group. It is a pretty small group right now, but they work on revamping the orientation week. We need such activities early on, in order for students to get involved.

3. The ideal thing would be to get the best education for the least amount of money. The administration, however, is faced with a lack of money, and the students aren't getting the same quality of education, as they used to. We want better orientation, course evaluation, and internships, but the administration is focussed on keeping the university going rather than improving it. The problem there is money.

4. Oh, Goodness! I don't think I'd ever decline a dinner offer ... unless Coca-Cola invited me. I'd bring my boyfriend, though, and we would have a nice quiet dinner talking politics. What would I wear? Let me think. I don't know. Casually, I guess.

VP Clubs & Services

1. Can you say why you want to be a SSMU politician?

2. What do you think of current levels of student participation?

3. What are some new funding directions?

4. What do you think a club should provide to justify its funding?

5. If you could club any service which service would you club?



Akin Alaga

1. Because I believe in this campus, and because I believe in McGill. And because I have the skills to make a difference, to improve McGill student life.

2. Well we have a higher participation rate than other universities, but at the same time, a lot more can be done. In terms of increasing club visibility and by making students understand that there is a gap between club and service interests and student needs.

3. Well I have been toying with the idea of holding an annual fund raising event for clubs and services.

4. We have to be sure that students believe in the organization, and what would reflect that would be student participation.

5. I will turn the joke around. What I would do, is that instead of going through the three-year clubbing process in order to create a service I would create a service right off the bat because I believe that there is a need for a francophone student network as a service, immediately.



Chris Gratto

1. When I was VP Finance for AUS last year, one of the things I noticed was that time and time again, groups had trouble accessing all the resources at McGill. There are numerous special project funds that various departments have and they are just not known to student groups. That was one thing that made me want to run.

2. One thing I have noticed over the years is that it is a very few number of people who are involved in the clubs. Again I think that is just a communications problem, the students don't know which clubs have what they want, they don't know what the clubs offer.

3. I would like to see more speakers because the speakers I have seen have been wonderful and they've been underadvertised.

4. Well one of things that worked really well in AUS is that we had tiers of funding. If you just kind of have meetings and you don't draw in a lot of students, then you'll have a certain level of funding; if you have more events, a great web page, you have a lot of members your club and it is very well organized, then you receive another level of funding.

5. I can't think of any that deserve, just like, a good smack across the head.



André Nance

1. A SSMU politician? I do not want to be one. Because I do not see the job as a political one, I see it is one where I do interact with a lot of people, I network with everyone who is in clubs and services and publications.

2. There are some fantastic clubs that have good attendance and are showing a great deal of initiative. What I would like to think is that we see an extracurricular community that is outreaching beyond McGill but further into Montreal.

3. Relative to other people I would take money away from the club's fund at the beginning, because I think that Gratto would look to take from one fund in order to put more money in another one. I look at it like this: SSMU has X amount of resources, it gives X amount of resources; how can we improve upon this?

4. As I understand it, the financial selection process actually keeps things fairly loose, so that they can reward initiative, so that they can reinforce and fund a bunch of clubs that otherwise might not make a certain quantitative rate.

5. I don't want to club any service, but I think that SSMU should be giving a lot more attention to Walksafe. I think that's a good program that needs a lot of reforming and a lot of energy, not necessarily from the inside because they do a good job, but that SSMU needs to support them more.

VP Communi- cation & Events

1. How do you plan to make SSMU activities and events more accessible to francophone students?

2. What would you do to raise awareness in the McGill student community about SSMU?

3. What new ideas for events and activities do you have that you would like to implement?

4. There's been a big debate on campus about whether posters should be put up with clear plastic tape or brown packing tape. Which do you prefer and why?



Jesse Andrews

1. I would have highly promoted events, like Open Mic Nights and encourage francophone and anglophone students to participate. The big thing I'm planning which has a connection with this issue is to have a platform committee that would go around on a monthly basis and address people in English and French and tell them what was up.

2. A platform committee would do a lot to raise awareness because it would keep students constantly informed about what was going on in SSMU. A winter festival would also be a good way to get people involved. Different faculties would be responsible for different weeks in the month of January. This would ensure more equal participation in SSMU events and activities.

3. One of the things I've been active in organizing this year is the Open Mic Night which essentially took off from the open air pub, which I was also heavily involved with. Every night for the coming year I have organized for a feature night at Gert's called Spank, starting this Wednesday night.

4. Brown packing tape - its environmentally better.



Mark Chodos

1. Well, I've been running my campaign in both French and English, and the majority of my posters are bilingual. I would continue to do this in the position, as well as make sure that emails sent to students will be bilingual. I've spoken French all my life, and I see no reason why our school can't be as bilingual as the Canadian government.

2. If students know what's going on, it's a good first step. I'm planning a mass email once a month to inform students. I think that if they know, they'll get involved. The medium is there; no we just need to get the message across. I'd also expand events like Open Mic night at Gert's, and I'd try to bring back Four Floors since that's something that attracts thousands of students.

3. I want to make Open Mic nights bimonthly, and I'd like them to have a theme, like jazz or fusion. I'd also like to have special Hockey Night in Canada nights at Gert's, with cheap pizza and beer. I'd like to see a healthy rivalry between Habs fans and Leafs fans at McGill.

4. Masking tape, because I've seen tape guns break down and that's just a bad scene. Masking tape comes in many colours and it's cheap at the dollar store.



Kosta Dritsas

1. I would facilitate the integration of the francophone community into all events and activities. Better advertising in the French papers like Ici, Vue, Le Delit would do a lot to popularize SSMU activities and events in the francophone community and get them involved. Better poster in both English and French would also help.

2. Increase the social life aspect of this portfolio and a lot more people will be interested in getting involved. I want to organize an intensive poster campaign designed to make SSMU more visible around campus and in residential areas populated primarily by students such as the ghetto.

3. I would revitalize Four Floors, but I would redesign it so that it was actually happening on four floors. For instance in the ballroom there would be rave, then in the cafeteria you could have hip hop DJs on one end with freestyle competitions and house music and on the other end you would have reggae music. At Gert's I would set up a pub for people who just want to hang out and then in The Alley I would have folk music. I think that would cover a very wide range of tastes.

4. I'd say clear plastic tape is transparent and you can see right through it.



Bob Tarle

1. An idea that I have is to have a social-infoline where students can call to find out about things, and it would have messages both in English and in French. This would allow for equal access to information for francophone and anglophone students.

2. We need to hit students where they live, mainly in the ghetto, with poster and flyer campaigns. A well-publicized social infoline with a catchy number would get students' attention and get them to focus on SSMU and its activities.

3. I'm going to have MC and DJ spinoffs and greater media involvement on campus. I started my own promotional company this year - Posti Caldi - in Italian it means hot spots, and I've been throwing parties at the Le Sugar all year for the past year which truly have been hot."

4. Clear plastic tape - You can see right through to the message.



Pete Wielgosz

1. By promoting a bilingual culture in all messages - websites, poster-ing, advertising campaigns, message boards. I'm bilingual myself and I would encourage interaction with francophone students. SSMU can fund and advertise these events using specifically designed internal communication channels.

2. I want to create a feedback loop, promoting interactive information between the Society and students by putting up SSMU boards in major buildings on campus, computers in Shainer and in the library, and by implementing a listserv system which will allow for instant feedback from the students.

3. I would organize a street jam-boree, a week-long outdoor festival in early September. There will be jazz bands, blues bands, outdoor plays, comedy, food festivals, an open air festival and a very visible promotion of SSMU clubs and services available to students. Another idea I have is for the SnowCastle pub - this is basically like a Snow AP but it would be held in an ice castle instead of a tent. I am also planning on having faculty exhibitions, which would be an opportunity for every faculty to showcase their skills and what they have to offer.

4. I've always been partial to silly putty - that stuff has a crazy bounce.

VP Community & Government Affairs

1. How are you going to make your position more accessible to students?

2. In light of the fact that in the past 3 years SSMU has spent thousands of dollars on legal bills fighting differential tuition fees, are you going to continue the fight or do you think SSMU should change tactics?

3. Should SSMU take a stand on international issues?

4. Which direction do you think SSMU should take in organizing student movements?

5. Wojtek, the current VP, has discovered that hair gel has smoothed his relations with government leaders. If elected, would you incorporate this finding into your administration?



Jeremy Farrell

issue to the courts.

3. SSMU must be careful. We must remember that fundamental issues, those which deal with education, student life, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, are important. But if the force of an organization is spread too thin, nothing gets done.

4. I plan a two-pronged approach. I will continue working with CASA, which uses a professional case study approach. It lobbies government ministers and federal organizations. For example, CASA successfully lobbied for tax credits for millennium scholarships. There is a need to consolidate with more vocal lobbying. However, it is important that this approach is well-organized. If we use both approaches, we will see better response and better results.

5. Campaign promise: you will never see Jeremy Farrell with hair gel on nor glasses on his head.

1. The key idea is to be responsive. We must use resources that are here, therefore should ask associations and clubs what they want. It is important to advertise office hours and e-mail so administration can be reached.

2. Not much money has been wasted, rather it has been invested. There is a need to do a better job of explaining the problem of differential tuition fees. They are discriminatory fees, since we are all Canadians. Governments have taken a closed-ear approach to arguments against it, therefore the need to take the



**Louis-Philippe
Messier**

already. Therefore, we must prevent a fourth increase and this can only be done with the lawsuit.

3. Yes, SSMU can afford to take a stand on international issues even with opposition, unless the groups oppose to it have very good arguments. McGill has a very diversified student body and therefore may always be groups opposed.

4. We need collaboration with clubs at McGill. McGill is only Quebec university where students take care of clubs, not bureaucrats. Clubs, including fraternities and other groups, should work on joint events. We can organize big shows by making it useful to many groups.

5. If hairgel was needed to smooth relations, I would use it. The little things are not important. I don't think I need to sell my soul to get things from Government. If I needed to wear a suit to work with the government, I would not hide if I was on campus.

1. Project #1 is to create "Team McGill" which would travel with clubs and associations which are political-ly orientated or those with projects to meet government ministries. Taking the community to the government is a way of promoting McGill

2. Yes, I would continue the lawsuit, because the conditions are excellent. SSMU pays only approximately one-fifth of the lawyer's fees, and it would be crazy to cancel the two to three years of work. We need allies within Quebec's student force. We must work with La FEUQ, because they are the 'golden way'. We must realize that the differential tuition have been raised 3 times

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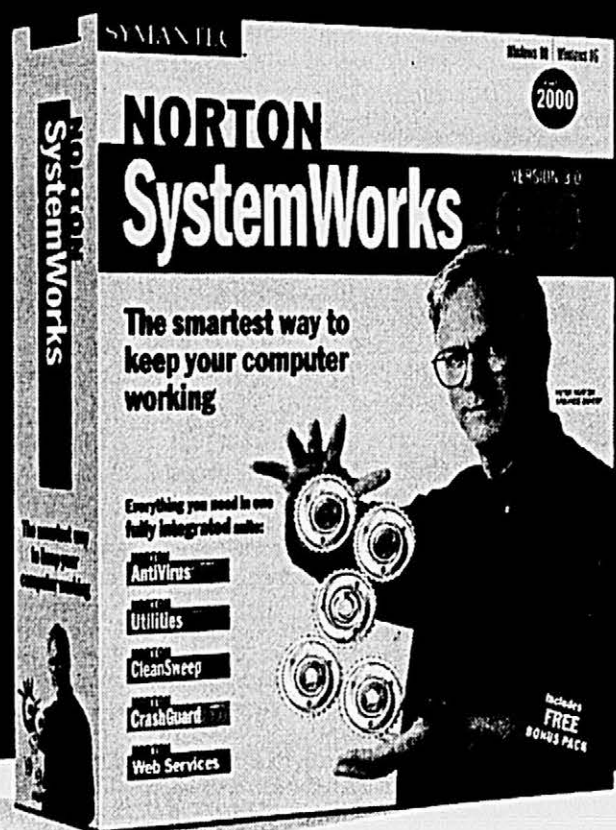
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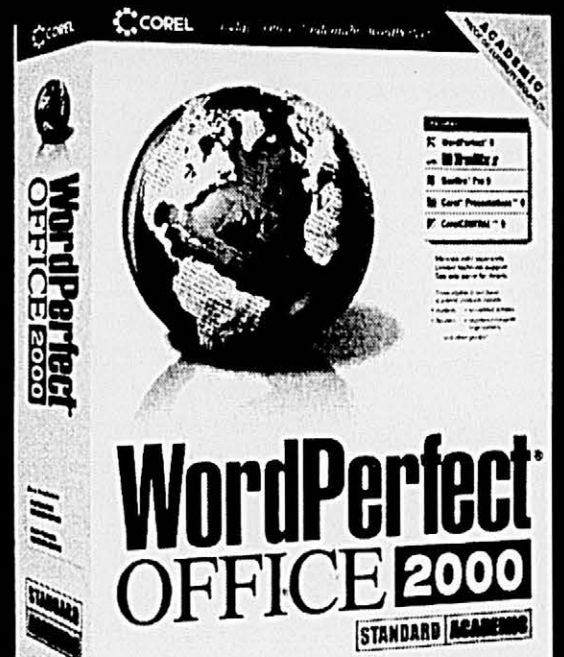
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ELECTIONS 2000

Students Want to Talk to Candidates

Daily panel wants more face-to-face contact

By JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

Last Thursday, we asked our student panel about what they think are the biggest issues in this year's SSMU elections. Today, we talk to them about what they think of SSMU candidates.

Our focus group was randomly selected, and while several of them are involved in various McGill clubs, none of them are affiliated with the Student Society in any way.

WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU KNOW SO FAR ABOUT THE CANDIDATES?

Fraser: I have seen no one speak in public. It's kind of odd, because in other years they've come to speak with classes.

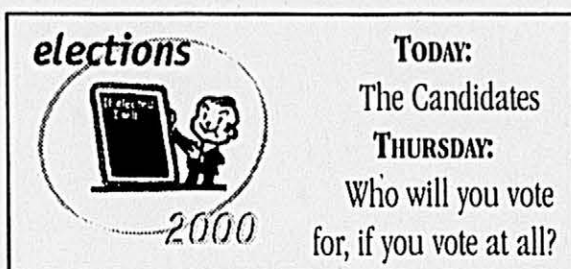
Rebecca: No one's spoken in my class either...but I know that there was a huge debate on Thursday night. But not everyone has four hours to spend going to a SSMU debate.

Kinan: I don't know any of the candidates.

Mina: I've never been approached by any of the candidates.

Kinan: I'm a bit confused about how any of them expect us to vote for them when none of us seem to know about them. They haven't spoken in any of our classes, all we know about them is what we read about them which is usually self-propaganda. I don't know if I'll vote if I don't get to know the nominees.

Mina: I think that candidates are showing up to classes just so they can be



recognized and so their names can be remembered. So when someone sees their name on a ballot, they'll vote for them because that's the only person they know. I've seen posters and stuff, but other than that, I really can't form an opinion on who would be best for the job.

Rebecca: I think that since McGill has a really apathetic student population people don't go and vote unless they're really convinced. I think that the candidates think that if they plaster their pictures everywhere, we'll just go and vote for whoever we're most familiar with. And I'm not going to vote for anyone unless I know what their platform is. I guess I don't know why these people are running, except that they want the position for their own experience. Maybe if the candidates had specific complaints with SSMU, if they had something they wanted to improve, then students could relate to that, and would pay attention. But it seems that what these people are saying is really general, they want to make general improvements, which I don't doubt, but they're not improvements people are demanding.

Ashley: Candidates want to show that

there is something concrete they can accomplish, so they pick out an example, but sometimes it's not something I can see helping McGill life. It would be good to be able

to sit down and have a conversation with them.

Kinan: A lot of candidates talk about wanting to listen to the student voice, a lot of general stuff, but nothing that you could say later "you said you were going to do this and you didn't".

DO YOU THINK THAT SSMU POLITICS REALLY AFFECT THE AVERAGE STUDENT?

Kinan: I think that what SSMU does affects the average student, we just don't get told about it.

Ashley: I'm sure that the candidates all have really good ideas, but when the year starts they get caught up in all the things that have to get done at SSMU, but we don't know what those day-to-day things are.

Fraser: I want someone to want to do this job for me, a student, not for the 15 or 20 thousand dollars they get paid.

Kinan: I think that if they were doing this for the students, they would be a bit more specific about what they wanted to do next year.

Ashley: It seems that the candidates

are just doing this for themselves.

Mina: I'm sure that SSMU takes care of a lot of administrative things no one knows about. But it may be some of those mundane things we need to know about.

HAVE THE POSTERS YOU'VE SEEN AROUND CAMPUS AFFECTED HOW YOU'LL VOTE?

Kinan: Everybody is spending their time in the wrong place, making colourful posters instead of concentrating on improving life for next year. Everyone's interested in getting elected, but after that they disappear.

Mina: Without these posters, I would not recognize half the names on the ballot. But they could be more informative, a little less silly.

Ashley: I think there are far too many posters, I feel that were bombarded with propaganda, and candidates don't care what they have to do as long as we see their name.

Rebecca: I don't think the posters do much more than show people that there's an election going on. There's so many of them that they all just cancel each other out. Just seeing a candidate's face won't make me vote for them. I would like to get the chance to get to meet them all.

Ashley: I would like the candidates to be more accessible, so we can discuss issues with them. Not just see their posters everywhere.

The Daily's Election Panel



FRASER HALL
U2 BIOLOGY



KINAN AL-ISSA
UI ENGINEERING (ELEC.)



REBECCA LAZAROVIC
U2 ARTS



MINA YOSHIKAI
U2 BIOLOGY



ASHLEY WHEATON
U0 MANAGEMENT

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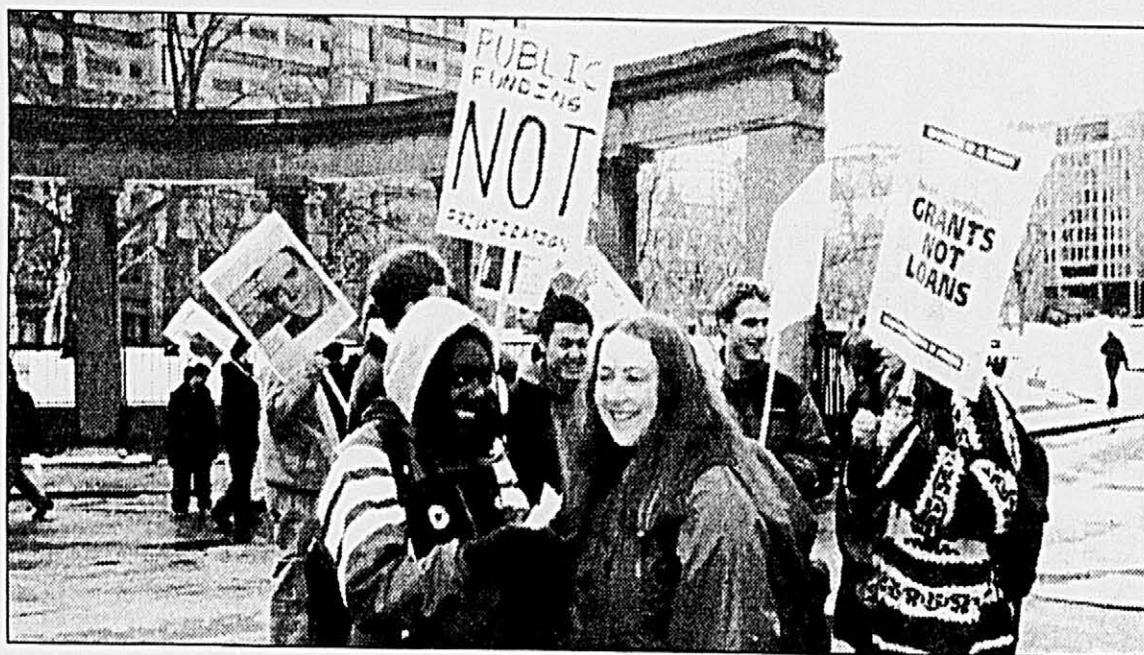
HISTORY?

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Low Turnout at SSMU Protest

Signatures amassed to send to province

By JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

A small but devoted group of students rallied for increased public funding to universities last Friday, in a protest organized by the Student's Society. The event, which culminated at the Roddick Gates, attracted about 40 students sporting placards and passing out leaflets.

"I think it is important that we take a stand as a united McGill community," said SSMU President Andrew Tischler. "The provincial government is admitting that McGill is underfunded but says it won't increase funding... The idea is to let students on campus know what they're facing. We really can't go on like this, we really have to change what's happening."

At SSMU's request, McGill Senate endorsed the protest at its meeting on February 17th. This meant that students could attend the event with no academic penalty for missing classes.

Despite the low turnout relative to recent CFS demonstrations on similar issues, Tischler was pleased with the protest. Demonstrators attained hundreds of signatures on a petition demanding Quebec Education Minister Francois Legault to up McGill's funding, explained Tischler, and the event took place at an opportune moment politically. "The timing for this event was perfect," he said. "The Quebec Youth Summit just came and went and was a total failure. The federal budget just came out and proved that there is money for education. The provincial budget is coming in two weeks, and we know that it's a great opportunity when we

know that we have the support of both administration and professors."

The Post Graduate Students' Society, though at odds with SSMU over the Cold Beverage Agreement, supported the rally.

"We differ on a lot of things," said councilor Damian Wheeler. "The PGSS

exclusivity deals to get money for the school. That's a message to all of us that we need to get out and be more vocal and much more adamant when talking to the government and the media about public education."

Unlike Tischler, Jennings was openly



Few but enthusiastic students show their support.

opposes the CBA while SSMU supports it. On this, though, we are in agreement. We both want the government to reinvest in education."

Wheeler added that he was happy to see SSMU protesting, a lobbying tactic it has rarely embraced this year.

SSMU Clubs and Services Rep Clare Jennings showed up at the protest to display her support for the cause. "I think that we really need to emphasize to the government that we obviously need a huge re-investment in education," Jennings said. "I think that when the school is forced to turn to things like corporate sponsorship and

disappointed with the turnout to the event. "I thought there would be a lot more candidates running for the SSMU out here today. I think it's a really important, if not the most important, role of the SSMU to lobby the government for more public funding."

But despite the small number of faithful students who braved the cold for the protest, the vast majority of McGill students took little notice of the event.

"I saw ads, I really didn't pay them any attention," said Sara Leone, a UO Science student who walked by as rally was starting. "I really don't think I will be taking part."

Honorary Doctorate Guidelines May be Changed

PGSS representative moves to exclude Governors

By BEN ERRETT

McGill's Senate will hear a motion on Wednesday to block current members of the Board of Governors from receiving honorary doctorates.

The Board is McGill's highest decision making body and is made up of high-profile business and community leaders.

The motion, put forward by Post Graduate Students Society representative Stephen Dery, follows the blocked effort to award Royal Bank CEO and Board member-at-large John Cleghorn an honorary doctorate.

"I felt that there was a little bit too much of a close relationship between the committees that choose who gets nominated and those who actually get nominated," explained Dery.

Dery said the motion was intended to prevent a situation like January's Cleghorn debacle. Dery's motion has been discussed with other PGSS Senators, but because it

he did not have any strong opinions about the motion.

"It seems like a logical conclusion to me," Tischler said. "But I personally don't feel one way or the other about it, quite honestly. It suggests that a basic conflict of interest may occur, which is certainly an interesting question."

Dery believes that his motion will pass, but many key senators, including Principal Bernard Shapiro and Vice-Principal (Academic) Luc Vinet may not be in attendance because of prior commitments.

"The committee that selects the honorary degrees reviewed the motion, and they support it," Dery said.

"I'm pretty confident that it will actually go through Senate."

Noumoff did not want to guess if the motion would pass, but he expects some debate.

"There's never anything that comes before Senate that somebody doesn't find objectionable," Noumoff said.

"I felt that there was too much of a close relationship between the committees that choose who gets nominated and those who actually get nominated."

relates to the confidential inquiry into the breach of confidentiality, he said that he could not confer with the PGSS as a whole.

Political Science professor Samuel Noumoff agreed that the motion is a necessary step.

"I think it's reasonable and proper to bring this forth," Noumoff said. "It does not create an invitation for difficulty and embarrassment for either the Board of Governors and the university."

Upon hearing of the motion, SSMU President Andrew Tischler said that the concept was certainly interesting, but that

"I don't really know. Someone could argue that the policy should be flexible so that we could award an honorary degree to someone [on the board of governors] who is particularly deserving. I could see that argument coming, but whether it will I don't know."

If adopted, Dery's motion will add Board of Governor members to the list of ineligible candidates. The existing policy excludes "active or newly retired members of staff" and "Canadian politicians currently in office" from consideration for honorary degrees.

SSMU Candidates Face Off on French Issues

By MARK EATON

Candidates for various SSMU positions debated issues relevant to francophone students in The Alley last Friday.

All candidates spoke of the need to integrate and improve the experiences of francophone students at McGill, and to provide representation for this portion of the student community. Some spoke fluently in French, others poorly, and others addressed the crowd in English.

The debate became most noteworthy when the candidates tried to address the relationship between the university and the world beyond the campus gates, particularly with regards to provincial govern-

ment politics in Quebec City.

VP Community and Government Affairs hopefuls Louis-Philippe Messier and Jeremy Farrell differed on their willingness to allow the SSMU to enter into relations with the officially separatist Fédération des Etudiants Universitaires Québec. Messier argued that closer involvement with La FEUQ would allow for a more effective means of pressuring the federal and provincial governments through a more united student lobby. Others, such as presidential candidate Wojtek Baraniak, objected to the FEUQ because of its position on separatism. Rom Severino, another presidential candidate, did not seem to know what La FEUQ was.

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The Construction of Style

BY SAMEER FAROOQ

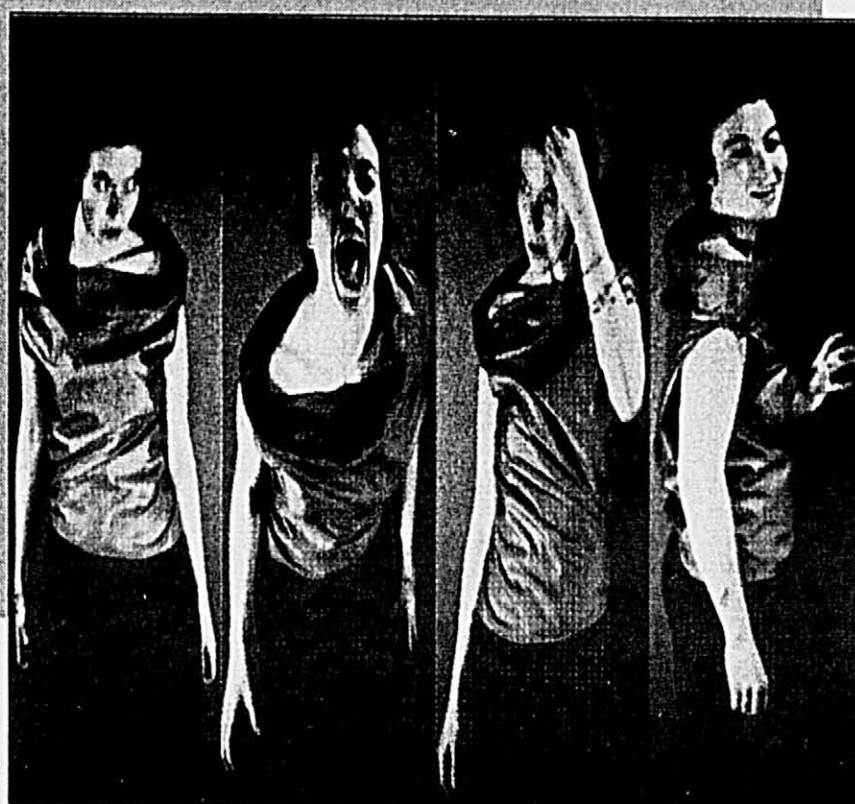


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editorial offices:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-03
Montreal QC H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6784, fax: 514.398.8318
email: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com

business and advertising office:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-07
Montreal QC H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6790, fax: 514.398.8318

co-ordinating editor:

JASON CHOW

co-ordinating news editor:

BEN ERRETT

co-ordinating culture editor:

GABE FLORES

news editors:

JON BRICKER, JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

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contributors:

ILAN MUSKAT, JASON REHEL, SARAH COHEN,
JOHN ORTVED, JEAN EDELSTEIN, RICKY C.
GORDON, HEIDI SMITH, MATT LEVINE, RAUL
GEBERT, CHRIS BARTLETT, CHRISTINA
CAMPISI, ROBERT BICHAIE

cover design:

JASON CHOW, SALLY WARNER

délit français:

JULIEN LAPLANTE

business manager:

MARLAN SCHRIER

assistant business manager:

PIERRE CROWLEY

honorary Daily editor of the issue:

DAVID FRUM

advertising management:

SASHA DECHENE, BORIS SHEDOV

advertising layout and design:

CAMERON CAMPBELL

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The McGill Daily welcomes letters to the editor and comments from readers on our new, expanded Commentary pages. Letters should be under 300 words, while Hyde Parks should be less than 500 words. Please drop off submissions in Shatner B-03 or email them to mcgilldaily@hotmail.com. The Daily reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and possible libellous or offensive content.

The Real Issue Behind the CBA

There's a great deal of rhetoric flying around campus about the Cold Beverage Agreement. The "No" side, which wants McGill to cancel its proposed 11-year deal with Coca-Cola, has pulled out all the stops in its campaign, addressing issues as diverse as human rights in Guatemala to the positioning of cola machines on campus.

The one issue that the No side cannot properly address, however, is the current crisis of underfunding. Although they argue that the government should be responsible for funding universities, it has been proven to us time and time again that governments have agendas of their own, and that students are simply not a priority. If a cola company, or any other company

wants to sell its wares on campus and will pay handsomely to do so, it appears to be a relatively painless – if shortsighted – way to help remedy our funding problems.

The "Yes" side, fragmented as it is, has also had its share of problems. The Students' Society has shown an unbelievable reticence to allow students to have a say on the matter. First, they did everything possible to stop a referendum. Then, they pushed to replace the student-initiated question with their own. Finally, they have the audacity to claim that consulting the students was their intention all along.

They also stress how the money will help us, but because the deal is secret, we have no idea how much we are getting. If

Coke will up the prices of their beverages and dramatically increase their presence on campus, as they have done upon signing exclusivity agreements with other universities, then students will end up compensating Coke for any monies we receive and we'll be no farther ahead. Since the contract is confidential, we can only speculate on this, which is the crux of the problem.

The issue is complex and there are many questions that must be taken into account. However, we must cast the politicking aside and consider common sense.

We would simply not sign a contract we couldn't read in our personal lives, so why would we allow the Students' Society to do so on our behalf? The confidentiality clause

may be there to protect Coca-Cola's interests, but what about students' interests?

Signing this deal without conditions of complete transparency would defy simple logic and clearly undermine the democratic process of student politics at this university.

If any corporation wants to enter into an agreement with McGill, they have the right to make an offer. We can then accept or decline that offer. But if we don't even know what the offer is, how can we make an informed choice?

The unexamined life is not worth living, and we have no way to examine the terms of the CBA. It is for this reason that McGill should vote No to the Cold Beverage Agreement.

letters



ERROR IN SSMU PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

I would like to clarify a point made during the SSMU debates on Thursday night. The error occurred during the Presidential debate.

Wojtek Baraniak accused "certain members at this table who were on Council last year and voted for [the CBA]" of having "now changed their mind." He was obviously referring to Tamara Kochar.

Unfortunately, Mr. Baraniak was wrong. Ms. Kochar and other councillors voted in favour of signing the CBA pending full disclosure of the contract.

As former Speaker of Council, and chair of the meeting at that time, I recall that a motion was passed granting the current and new executive committee signing authority until May 31, 1999.

There is a big difference between what was said at the debates Thursday and what occurred at SSMU Council last year and I believe that that distinction should be known.

Jaime Stein

SSMU Speaker of Council
(1998-1999)

HAIDER'S ELECTION LEGIT

What is all the fuss about Jörg Haider? Everyone is quick to point out that he is a right-wing politician in a nation that has had a bad experience with reactionary policies, but they overlook one fact.

Haider, whose Freedom Party is more centrist than right-wing, has been elected democratically and has every right to be a part of the Austrian government.

Do you live and know what the situation is in Austria? No. If you did then you would understand why he received so many votes, including a sweep of his former constituency of Carinthia.

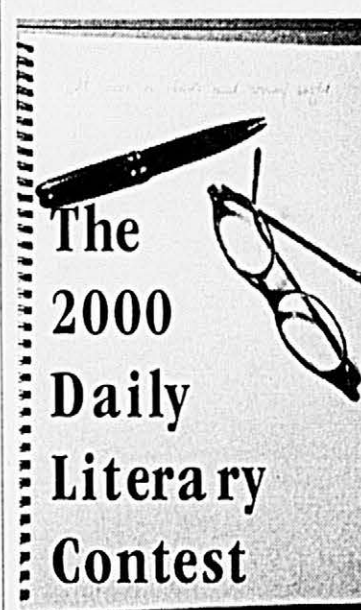
No one worries that George Bush Jr., a true right-winger, is a candidate for the US presidency, or that Preston Manning, considered an anti-Semite by some, is the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Why not?

As a Jew, I am certainly not sympathizing with Haider, especially after some of the comments he's made concerning Adolf Hitler and the Waffen SS, but I have to accept that the people of Austria have spoken.

Emile Amzallag
Freshman Science

NOTE TO READERS

"Merely Musing" will not appear for the duration of the SSMU elections as Zach Dubinsky is a candidate. It is for this reason that Dubinsky has resigned his position as The Daily's copy editor.



The Daily is proud to announce the 2000 edition of the Daily Literary Contest. This year's contest is a revival of a proud Daily tradition from the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s. Past winners of the contest have included Leonard Cohen and Irving Layton. The contest features three categories: poem, essay, and short story.

The Rules

All entries must be received by 5 pm on Friday, March 17, 2000 in the box in The Daily's office in Shatner B-03. The contest is open to all McGill students. All entries must be typed on 8.5x 11" paper. Essay entries must be no more than 1000 words, and may be on any topic. Short stories must be no more than 2000 words. Poems

should not exceed 1 page in length. Essays and short stories must be double-spaced.

Entries should have a cover page with the following information: name, year and program, phone number, e-mail, and a brief biographical sketch to be published with winning entries.

The Judging

Upon receipt, all entries will be coded and names will be removed.

The contest will be judged by members of both the McGill and Montreal literary community. McGill judges will include English professors Nathalie Cooke, Robert Lecker, and Brian Trehearne. Among other judges will be Andrew Pyper, author of *Lost Girls*; Adrian King-Edwards, owner of The Word bookstore on Milton; Richard King, co-owner of Paragraphe bookstore; and Michael Harris, poetry editor for Vehicule Press.

The Prizes

There will be a first, second, and third prize in each category, for a total of nine winners. All winners will have their entries published in the April 3 issue of The Daily.

First prize winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Paragraphe books; a gift certificate for 5 beverages at the McGill Café; and a McGill Daily T-shirt.

Second prize winners will receive \$20 gift certificates from the McGill University bookstore.

Third prize winners will receive a selection of books donated by Vehicule Press and Chapters.

Complete SSMU election results first in The Daily next Monday

McLOUSE by Steve Barker



The Great CBA Debate

SSMU exec unclear on concept of human rights

BY JULIE HENDERSON

Every Tuesday evening, a group of students meet in the Shatner Building as part of Amnesty International to work on promoting and protecting human rights.

I suppose that we take it for granted that not all McGill students may be familiar with the basic idea of a human rights abuse. This issue was gratefully brought to our attention by SSMU's own VP Operations, Kevin McPhee, at our last meeting.

We now understand what clouds the issue for Mr. McPhee when he states that he has not seen evidence of human rights abuses by Coca-Cola: he simply doesn't know a human rights abuse when presented with one. Therefore, we at Amnesty International McGill would like to take this opportunity to give Mr. McPhee a primer on human rights violations.

To begin with, human rights, as the name implies, apply to everyone who is "human." To relate this issue to Coca-Cola, yes, even Coca Cola employees in Guatemala are "human."

Mr. McPhee may or may not be familiar with the international body called the United Nations. The United Nations was founded soon after the Second World War

and in 1948 drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was ratified by the countries of the UN, and outlines rights that are to be protected for all people. It is the document upon which the mandate of Amnesty International is based. One of the things it protects is the right to life.

To clarify, because we want this to be absolutely crystal clear to Mr. McPhee: if Coca-Cola kills unionists that work for the company, this is a violation of human rights – Coke would have violated their employees' right-to-life by killing them.

Yes, yes, I know Mr. McPhee is shaking his head and probably saying that this is not enough evidence of human rights abuses. (After all, I've only provided one example, which is obviously not enough for SSMU to take the issue into consideration.) Here's more: white employees at Coca-Cola's headquarters in Atlanta earned an average 59 per cent more than their black counterparts in 1998.

I know Mr. McPhee may be confused again about the human rights issue because surely this is an issue of racism, not human rights, is it not? Surprisingly enough, while the wording may be confusing to some, racism is actually a violation

of someone's human rights. The UDHR has a clause outlining that all people have the right to not be discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity or religious practice.

We hope we have clarified things. There are many more human rights that are outlined in the UDHR, a copy of which we would be glad to present to Mr. McPhee. Whether or not human rights abuses should be a main focus of McGill's decision on the CBA, we'll be presenting "hard evidence" of violations to Mr. McPhee on Monday to respond to his challenge. We hope that being informed will allow him to vote on the CBA with a conscience.

Julie Henderson is a U2 Arts student.



We need the money

BY JONAH GINDIN

McGill needs money. The alternative to a corporate agreement is higher tuition, because we all know that provincial and federal funding won't cut it. No matter what budget we are talking about, no matter how high education is on the list, the funds never come.

This is because the Liberal attitude (never mind the Conservative and Bloc attitudes) correspond to Jeffrey Simpson's view that "the current subsidy is unacceptably large."

No one wants tuition hikes, but who can deny that McGill is sorely in need of financial aid? Here's where a corporate agreement fits in nicely. The main advantage of striking a deal with Coke is that they will not have any say in where the money goes. This is the exception with corporate agreements. Often a stake in university curriculum is just as important to a company as exclusive selling rights. Another advantage is the obvious: who really gives a fuck what we drink? And if anyone did, they wouldn't choose Pepsi, that's for damn sure.

Now a word about this "human rights violation" stuff. Do ya'll remember when Nike was the bad guy? Child labour? Sweatshops, etc...? And remember where that ended? It became apparent almost immediately that every major shoe company was involved in equally shady production arrangements.

Though Nike, as the largest shoe com-

pany, does have a certain obligation to set the standard, it is important to remember that the whole premise of capitalism is to undercut the competition in order to dominate the market. And what with all the free trade nowadays, these practices probably aren't even illegal. So this problem goes way beyond one or even many companies' particular exploitative practices.

Now, I realize it is somewhat more difficult to boycott capitalism than Nike, or even shoes for that matter; however, consumer choice is not going to make a difference.

I do not deny that Coke has a very shady background. I wouldn't be surprised if accusations concerning violence against unionists in Coke bottling plants in Columbia were absolutely true. However, I also recall Pepsi's cooperation with murderous dictatorships in Burma several years ago (perhaps ongoing).

It is naive to think that the way to change things is by sacrificing our education, and it is also naive to assume that because Coke is in the spotlight right now (mostly because of the CBA), they are the only evil beverage company.

I would propose that we accept the CBA, perhaps getting a bit more than \$10-million (can we get 11 years of inflationary adjustments for 11 years of loyalty?), and use some of the money to promote anti-WTO, Seattle-esque protests and demonstrations which address the greater problem, rather than a specific evil.

Jonah Gindin is a UO Arts student.

SSMU ignored human rights warnings

BY SAMANTHA MCGAVIN

I would like to raise the issue of FERC consultation on the proposed CBA.

As an ex-Financial Ethics Research Committee advisor from 1996-1998, I can say that the Cold Beverage Agreement was first raised as a hypothetical issue in the spring of 1998 by then-VP Finance & Operations Duncan Reid. Since there was no contract on the table, his consultation was informal. Duncan wished to know whether one of the two likely contenders for a possible CBA (Coke or Pepsi) should be black-balled. Meaning, was one of these companies to be avoided at all cost? Could one be said to be better than the other?

With this understanding, a fellow advi-

sor and I set off to research both companies, and returned with the results – that the companies were on an equal footing with respect to ethics, since they both had equally damnable histories.

What was supposed to follow was that once an actual contract was on the table, the SSMU would bring the name of the company under consideration to FERC, which would then either recommend for or against signing. I would tend toward believing that this process actually happened (in the year following my term on FERC), if it were not for some suspicious items.

First, when asked about the committee's investigations into Coke, a 1998-1999 FERC member declined to reply under pre-

text of it being a "delicate issue" – when FERC has no mandate for secrecy at all. Second, the records in the VP Finance & Operation's office note that approval was given to both companies, when this was *not* the understanding reached in our initial meeting, nor the opinion of the researching advisors.

Was our preliminary consultation the only one? If so, then the SSMU has circumvented the regulations that apply to signing contracts of considerable value. If not, then I challenge last year's FERC members, the current Finance Committee, or Kevin McPhee to prove that FERC was properly consulted.

In any case, I have to wonder about FERC's – and SSMU's, for that matter –

definition of "corporate ethics" or "research skills," if Coke is actually being considered an ethical company with which to do business. Allegations of corporate-sponsored Colombian death squads, support for African dictatorships, past Nazi collaboration, violent anti-unionism in Guatemala, and racist employee practices in the States, aside from their attempted rainforest devastation in Belize, broken recycling promises, and massive downsizing everywhere (despite massive profits)...how much more does it take for a corporation to be declared unethical?

In the spring of 1996, motivated by similar concerns about Pepsi, students voted 4-1 to break the contract and create FERC. The contract was never broken – SSMU officials cited fear of legal repercussions.

But this time, no contract has been signed. This time, students will have the opportunity to vote down signing their consciences away, and the SSMU will really have to do something about it.

Samantha McGavin is in U3 Social Work.

letters



COLA DEALS NORMAL

Students at McGill have now been talking about and dealing with the Cold Beverage Agreement (CBA) for at least fourteen months (see last year's Daily of March 19, 1999).

Several points have been consistently missed in discussions concerning the history of exclusivity agreements in general with the government, para-public institutions and specifically universities.

All levels of government, including

universities, have had exclusive agreements for decades, and will continue to have them. McGill has had them and continues to have them for products ranging from paper, to photocopiers, to food services, to car rentals to any other number of things that you can think of.

McGill University does have exclusive arrangements which last for periods of over 10 years, and these have not adversely affected students, nor academic freedoms.

This exclusivity agreement (the CBA) sets no precedent and sends no message to either the government or to Cola companies.

It's nothing new and doesn't change the university except that you won't be able to buy Pepsi products, and it will generate new monies for McGill, half of which is to be spent directly by students, where underfunding hasn't given us any.

Conversely, denying a CBA will change

nothing for Coca-Cola and will not help students – the status quo and lack of funds will go on.

Despite allegations of questionable practices and other concerns, cola companies will still be on campus next year, colas will still be bought on campus, and we will still pay for them.

The only difference is that we won't receive any benefits in return and nor will our educations.

Andrew Tischler

U3 Political Science and Philosophy

COCA-COLA REPS STORMING CAMPUS

While walking through the Leacock building last Thursday, I overheard somebody talking about the "refreshing" issue of a Cold Beverage Agreement. I had previously seen the person carefully reading the

campaign literature of the "No" side in next week's referendum.

He identified himself to me as Samuel Houde, representative for Coca-Cola. A group of students had gathered around him and stood listening to him.

"This is my University," he said, pointing at the Arts building. "This is my job." He then went on to tell us that he didn't understand how students could oppose the CBA. After all, he said, "it's free money."

As you can see, a Coke representative was sent directly to the McGill campus to gauge the opposition to the CBA. This Coca-Cola spokesperson was already pretending, before any contract was even signed, that McGill University is "his." Coca-Cola now feels it has to proselytize to convince McGill students about why its proposed Cold Beverage Agreement is good.

To me, this is highly disturbing. In a public institution, I, as a McGill student,

stood there with several others being overtly preached to about "The Real Thing."

We are told that McGill and Coke will remain distinct in the case that the CBA is signed. Obviously, the SSMU told us time and again, there would not be any substantial changes on campus after a CBA. "It's confidential, but trust us," screams Andrew Tischler in classes. After witnessing this campaign by a Coke spokesperson, I don't trust anybody anymore.

And to "free money," I answer that the imposition of forced increases in sales and fines (like at UBC, Queen's, and York University) and substantial price raises (like at the University of Manitoba, York University, UBC, and Western) is not free money.

François Tanguay-Renaud
U2 Law

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For information, contact: Ava Goldman, Director, JCC Camp Kingswood, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA 02459, 617/244-5124, or email: info@kingswood.org

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Celine Heinbecker

Candidates Preen for Students

Impressive turnout at Leacock debate

BY MATT LEVINE

A mixture of partisan supporters and interested bystanders filled Leacock 232 Thursday evening as hundreds of students came to hear the SSMU candidates' debate hosted by McGill's Debating Union.

The Presidential candidates provided the most interest of the evening, with Rom Severino, Tamana Kochar, and Wojtek Baraniak vying for SSMU's top spot.

Hopeful Rom Severino led off with a call to address funding problems with a renewed intensity in student lobbying efforts and a promise to run a high-profile student conference before next year's federal budget. But Severino's night took a downturn in the question period of the debate, when he often found himself falling back on refrains like "I will not lie, I don't have the SSMU experience they [the other candidates] do, so I can't really answer your question."

Kochar emphasized her unique position in the race as the lone candidate to have played a big part in SSMU and the residence community, but never to have held down a position that pulled her away from day-to-day student life. "I still know what it's like to be a student at McGill," she said.

Baraniak replied saying that "one of the biggest problems faced by student government is turnover. It basically takes five months before you even figure out what is going on in there."

The final question to the trio came from outgoing President Andrew Tischler, when he pointed out in French that while only one-fifth of McGill's student makeup is francophone, most of the meetings the president attends outside McGill are conducted in French.

Kochar turned defiant, telling the audience, "I don't need to speak the same language to represent the students of this university." She furthered promised to

enrol in French classes at McGill if elected.

Baraniak followed, in broken French, telling the audience just how important he felt it to be for a student leader to be able to communicate with francophone students as well as Quebec politicians.

The race between Jeremy Farrell and Louis Messier for VP Community and Government also centred around each one's respective linguistic background.

"I believe this is the one SSMU executive position where it is actually desirable that the person speak better French than English," said Messier, who is a bilingual francophone. "I can represent McGill in Ottawa, and in Quebec."

Farrell got the audience's applause with his response, in simple but fluent French, that he too felt confident in his ability to communicate in French.

The issue of membership in student lobby movements also grew heated, when a member of the audience asked each candidate's opinion on McGill's relations with La Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec, the province's biggest student front.

"SSMU absolutely should not be involved in any organization with a separatist mandate," Farrell argued.

But Messier countered, saying that SSMU's invisibility in the student front that manages to get the most attention from the provincial government hurt McGill's chances for funding. "The government in Quebec thinks that there is no student life at McGill, they think...all we do is study," he said.

The fight for the VP University Affairs was the source of much less debate, with candidates Clara Péron, Amarkai Laryea, and Jacquie Poitras doing little more than agreeing with one another, although Péron led the way with initiatives to develop lines of communication between SSMU and administration. Péron also kept the atmosphere easy-going, joking about her experience and her boyfriend, outgoing VP UA Xavier Van

Chau. "I have worked closely with the current VP, maybe a little too closely," she said.

VP Clubs and Services wannabes Chris Gratto, Akin Alaga, and Andre Nance also had trouble differentiating their respective goals for the position. All three made similar promises to increase the number of avenues open for clubs looking for funding and to be earnest enforcers of SSMU regulations pertaining to the clubs under their portfolio. Only Nance appeared to make it known however that he was committed to working diligently, with his promise of "longer office hours, [and] immediate responses to phone messages."

The race between Jay Antao, Arif Chowdhury, and Kevin McPhee for VP Operations was best characterized as one of insider-versus-outsiders. Balancing himself on the front table to give his initial speech, incumbent McPhee defended himself against charges he could not "claim to be representing students, when [he] will have spent two years playing at being a fat-cat-administrator-politician."

Asked how each planned to vote on the CBA, McPhee told the crowd, "I will vote yes, because I have seen the contract and I feel confident as an individual student that none of my rights will be threatened."

But Antao and Chowdhury both said they would oppose the CBA precisely because they had not been lucky enough, like McPhee, to see the contract. Both said even if they had seen the contract between McGill and Coke, that they would still feel it was essential for every student have that same opportunity before any decision could be made.

Bob Tarle, Jesse Andrews, Mark Chodos, Pete Wielgosz, and Kosta Dristas rounded off the VP Communication and Events ballot, each promising, if elected, to improve e-mail communication, SSMU's website, and McGill's party scene.

(continued from page 3)

post that year after the position was made to demand an academic with doctorate level qualifications. She took a leave and agreed to the deal that committed McGill to offering her an appropriate administrative position on her return - a deal that she says now, McGill failed to live up to.

And since her dismissal, she says, her fight to get her job back while representing herself in court has been a tough one. Supporters have called her plight one to tackle the justice system's whole approach to handling wrongful dismissal cases.

"It's been a real David and Goliath battle," Klampf said.

Justice Jacques Delisle, who delivered the unanimous verdict on behalf of the Appeal Court's three-judge panel, also commended Sheppard's efforts. Delisle told Sheppard that if she didn't return to a job at McGill, that she should consider a legal career.

"You should take a law degree," he said. "You would be good lawyer."

Sheppard says she now has to decide whether to proceed with her campaign to have Justice Dubois recused from the case or push ahead with her trial.

Iona Kwiatkowski, a former McGill employee who was recently involved in a similar case with McGill, said she could relate to Sheppard and was supporting her in her case against the university.

"[McGill administrators] deserve to get their knuckles rapped severely and start treating people in a fair manner," Kwiatkowski said.

She added, of Sheppard's case, "The McGill administration has really lost its integrity."



STUDENTS MEET WITH PETTIGREW TO DISCUSS WTO

VANCOUVER (CUP) - After pushing for months for a meeting with Pierre Pettigrew, federal minister of International Trade, a trio of students finally got their chance to take Ottawa to task for its involvement in the World Trade Organization.

Three University of British Columbia students Veljacic and Andreas Hernandez flew to the nation's capital two weeks ago to meet with Pettigrew.

Last November, the three were members of the WTO Action Committee, a UBC group that launched a hunger strike to protest Canadian participation in the global trade organization.

"The average citizen could not have a voice in these meetings," said Gabriel. "Yet the decisions being made in these meetings affected all citizens."

During the WTO summit, the minister's office did not respond to any of the hundreds of e-mailed messages or letters sent by the hunger strikers and their supporters.

Though Pettigrew's office refused

early requests to meet with the students, the committee "pushed and pushed" until early last week, when they were granted a 45-minute meeting with Pettigrew.

The committee's demands included immediate accountability and increased democratic involvement in Canada's WTO membership.

"The main purpose of the meeting was to promote [an] education campaign," said Gabriel. "And then, far in the future, to talk about the idea of bringing Canada's membership in the WTO back to a referendum."

The meeting with Pettigrew was friend-



Pierre Pettigrew

ly enough, according to the students.

The students believe that Pettigrew acknowledged their demands, but that he is unlikely to alter his approach to public involvement in trade policies.

The ministry recently polled 400 people on the WTO and Canada's trade policies. Most respondents agreed that there is a "need for greater transparency, and continued public dialogue on the trade agenda."

"We don't disagree that trade happens and that trade will happen," explained Veljacic, "but how we're involved in trade is what we're concerned about whether it's an ethical, democratic process."

-by Tom Peacock

NATIONAL POST RACKS REMOVED FROM U OF GUELPH

TORONTO (CUP) - The University of Guelph (U of G) removed the newspaper racks of the National Post after it distributed free copies of its paper on campus without authorization.

The Post, which is owned by newspaper baron Conrad Black, began distributing free copies at the Southwest Ontario university on Feb. 14.

When Nancy Sullivan, Vice-President Administration at the University, learned of the distribution plan she asked an assistant to call the paper to have the racks taken away.

"They were not authorized to locate their boxes where they put them," said Sullivan. "So we asked them to remove them and they did."

In related news, the Newspaper Audience Databank Inc. (NADbank) - a Canadian company that conducts research in urban markets for newspapers and other media clients - is currently conducting a national readership survey.

A well-placed media source, who spoke to Canadian University Press on the condition of anonymity, says the Post has increased its print run and is distributing free papers on campuses to boost its NADbank numbers.

An official at the Post categorically dismissed the charge.

"We've been doing this [distributing papers on campuses] for about five years," said Robert Henri, the paper's education sales co-ordinator "It's a long-term program."

The Post has existed for less than two years. But The Financial Post - which now comprises the National Post's financial section - has been around for years.

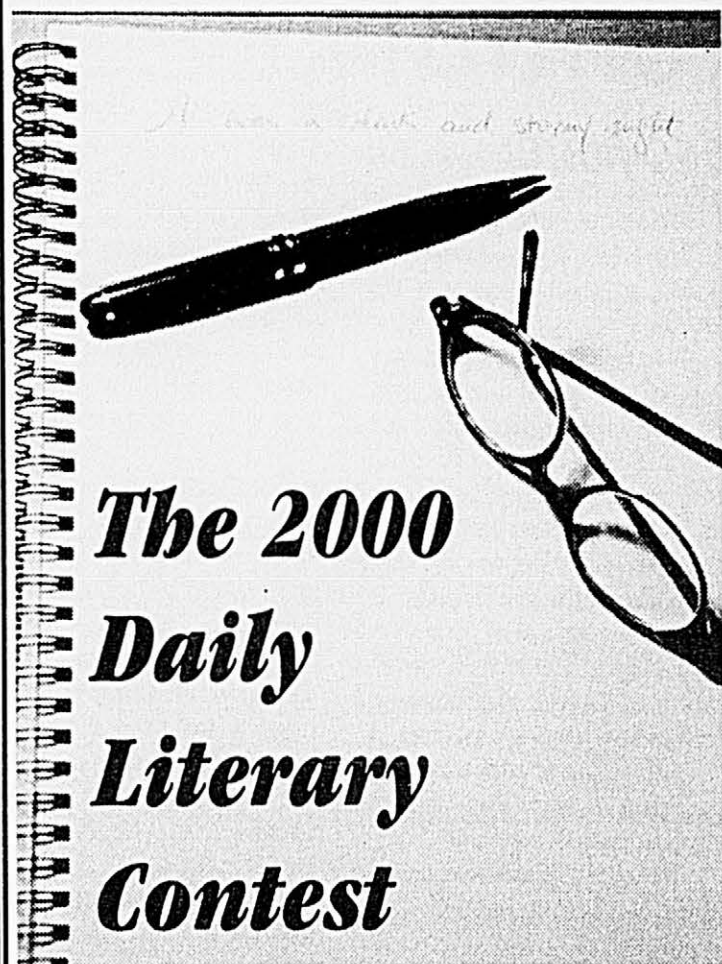
"None of these programs are new. They're continuing relationships that have been ongoing for many years," said Henri. "There's nothing new except there's been some controversy raised because of the Toronto Star's program."

This past summer, the Toronto Star signed an agreement with York University that saw thousands of free copies of the Star distributed on the Toronto campus.

The Star program was faced with intense opposition from members of the student press.

Campus newspapers feared large dailies would insert split-run ads in special issues distributed on campuses - which would hurt their advertising revenue - and lower the pickup rate of student papers.

-by Alejandro Bustos and Dave Leibl



The 2000 Daily Literary Contest

Deadline:
March 17

The Daily is proud to announce the 2000 edition of the Daily Literary Contest. This year's contest is a revival of a proud Daily tradition from the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s. Past winners of the contest have included Leonard Cohen and Irving Layton. The contest features three categories: poem, essay, and short story.

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All entries must be received by 5 pm on Friday, March 17, 2000 in the box in The Daily's office in Shatner B-03. The contest is open to all McGill students. All entries must be typed on 8.5x 11" paper. Essay entries must be no more than 1000 words, and may be on any topic. Short stories must be no more than 2000 words. Poems should not exceed 1 page in length. Essays and short stories must be double-spaced. Entries should have a cover page with the following information: name, year and program, phone number, e-mail, and a brief biographical sketch to be published with winning entries.

The Judging

Upon receipt, all entries will be coded and names will be removed. The contest will be judged by members of both the McGill and Montreal literary community. McGill judges will include English professors Nathalie Cooke, Robert Lecker, and Brian Trehearne. Among other judges will be Andrew Pyper, author of Lost Girls; Adrian King-Edwards, owner of The Word bookstore on Milton; Richard King, co-owner of Paragraphe bookstore; and Michael Harris, poetry editor for Vehicule Press.

The Prizes

There will be a first, second, and third prize in each category, for a total of nine winners. All winners will have their entries published in the April 3 issue of The Daily. First prize winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Paragraphe books, a gift certificate for 5 beverages at the McGill Café, and a McGill Daily t-shirt. Second prize winners will receive \$20 gift certificates from the McGill University bookstore. Third prize winners will receive a selection of books donated by Vehicule Press and Chapters.

Next Best Thing Fails To Satisfy

We're still waiting for the next best thing

BY JEAN EDELSTEIN

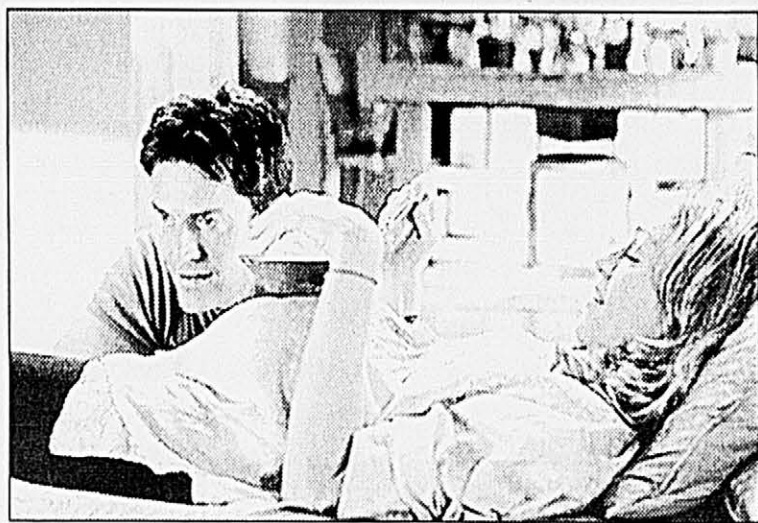
The Next Best Thing is a film clearly intended to appeal to a wide range of demographics. It will be loved by: Madonna worshippers who can't get enough of her pompous, self-promotive projects; filmgoers who get a buzz out of storming out of films after 20 minutes; and individuals who embrace all things asinine.

Yes, *The Next Best Thing* far surpassed expectations of how simply unentertaining a movie can be.

Madonna stars as Abby, the world's wealthiest yoga instructor (as evidenced by her fantastically lavish, fabulously decorated home in a ritzy suburb of L.A.). Despite her flexibility and fit



Madonna plays your typical yoga teacher in *The Next Best Thing*



physique, she's having a fair bit of trouble finding a man, something she whines about frequently to her best friend Robert (Rupert Everett). Robert is a cool-headed gay Englishman who inexplicably tolerates Abby's endless complaints and still calls her his best friend — even though from the beginning it isn't clear what benefits he is getting from the relationship. One night, the two get drunk and dress up in silly vintage outfits and do some swing dancing and (whoops!) end up having sex.

In what could only be called a shocking turn of events, Abby discovers she is pregnant. She declares that she is going to raise the child, and persuades Robert to move in with her and help raise their son, who they name Sam. This arrangement is ideal until Benjamin Bratt skids onto the scene in a cloud of sex appeal, falling in love with Abby and threatening to wreck havoc on the happy, albeit unconvention-

al, family.

The plot, if taken from a different angle, could have been quite interesting, eliciting interesting questions about the nature of family and relationships. Unfortunately, as it is addressed in this film, it is first boring and then depressing.

The initial half of the movie is substantially dull. The preview audience did their best to eke out some redeeming value from the film, laughing uproariously when Rupert Everett inadvertently yanks down a curtain rod. Ha.

The second half of the film, in which the custody of Sam comes into question, is completely depressing. Madonna's character goes from deeply irritating to completely reprehensible and deserving of a swift kick in the teeth.

Madonna has made valuable artistic contributions to modern society. Everyone loves to sing along with *The Immaculate Collection*. Pointy bras are terrific. *Truth or Dare* was, well, unique. However, her

acting career has always been a bit muddled. Those who might have debated Madonna's skills as an actress after her interesting turns in such films as *Evita* will have all their doubts laid to rest if they dare see *The Next Best Thing*, where she is just awful.

As Abby, she recites her lines in a generally vain fashion, like a pompous high school thespian. It gives the impression that she likes listening to herself almost as much as she likes the camera to feature shots of her looking luminous, spiritual, and sexy.

Yes, Madonna is incredibly attractive, but she flaunts it to the detriment of the film. It gets to the point where the actors in the final, ostensibly emotional scene, are completely upstaged by the vision of Madonna's legs silhouetted by the sun shining through her gauzy, slipless skirt.

The supporting cast deserves some credit for doing their best to survive in this Madonna-fest. Everett's treatment of the poor script is probably as good as it possibly could be. Lynn Redgrave, in a small role as Robert's mother, shows that true acting talent can shine through the murkiest material. And as Robert's AIDS-stricken friend, Neil Patrick Harris is very convincing in his bitter, depressed, and pessimistic character. One can't help but wonder if he is acting, or if he is just devastated and distressed to be a part of this dreadful film.

The Next Best Thing is now playing in theatres.

Horror author has potential

West Coast author writing between science fiction and horror

BY JOHN SINOPOLI

TORONTO (CUP) - Few writers can claim to constantly work and make a decent living solely on their writing, like Edo van Belkom can.

Belkom has published over 150 short stories, is the author or editor of nearly a dozen books and has won or been nominated for numerous awards. He is also one of Canada's masters of genre fiction: he is a writer and editor of works of horror, science fiction, fantasy, mystery and erotica.

He says he finds little difference in the writing of these genres.

"There isn't a lot of difference between the genres for me as far as writing goes since I don't approach a horror story any differently than I would a mystery or fantasy," said Belkom. "But, I'm sure that there are plenty of unconscious decisions being made during the writing process that just happen because they 'feel' right for whatever story I happen to be writing."

Belkom says he finds horror or mystery stories without a supernatural element the easiest to write, and the most fun.

"When I write those kinds of stories I can concentrate on the emotional angst of the characters instead of coming up with some new monster or type of magic," he explained. "I enjoy doing the odd science

fiction story too, but I don't have the scientific knowledge to write hard science-fiction, so my stuff usually bears a striking resemblance to fantasy."

Belkom's work has been likened to that of several famous writers, including Stephen King and Ray Bradbury. It's a comparison he finds flattering, but somewhat daunting.

"A reader who is truly familiar with the body of work produced by those two writers will draw obvious similarities with my work," he said. "But the casual reader might come away thinking, 'He ain't no Stephen King, that's for damn sure!' So it's a nice comparison, but it's also something to be wary of."

Belkom realized he wanted to write fantasy and horror stories when he first read Ray Bradbury's collection of short stories, *The October Country*.

He has since read all of Bradbury's work, as well as everything by Robert Bloch and Richard Matheson, and is currently making his way through the short stories of W. P. Kinsella.

For his muse Belkom finds the extraordinary in the ordinary.

"I get my inspiration from the world around me," he declared. "There's material everywhere you look, as long as you look at things with a writer's eye."

In 1998, along with David Nickle, Belkom won the Bram Stoker Award - the Horror Writers Association's highest honour - for a short story entitled "Rat Food," which appears in his collection of short stories, *Death Drives a Semi*. Belkom has also been nominated twice for the Crime Writers Association of Canada's Arthur Ellis Awards.

The Aurora Awards are the premiere literary prizes for works of science fiction and fantasy in Canada, and were founded in 1980. After five nominations, Belkom finally won the Aurora

Award in the English short story category in 1999 for "Hockey's Night in Canada." The short story explores what might have happened if Paul Henderson hadn't scored his famous goal against the Russians in 1972.

Belkom's most recent project is *The Aurora Awards: An Anthology of Prize-Winning Science Fiction & Fantasy*, which he edited. It is a compilation of the short stories that have won the Aurora Award in the last ten years. The collection offers the reader a cross-section of some of this country's best in science fiction and fantasy.

Thematically, each story in the collection has some political statement - or statements - to make regarding the situation our society and our world is currently in.

Prophetic visions of the future are used to comment on the present and where it's headed, and the ramifications of those directions.

Stylistically, the prose is fairly simple, straying away from the poetic or cryptic. There are no lengthy descriptions or attention to minor details, most of the text concentrating on plot and dialogue.

In Candace Jane Dorsey's "Sleeping in a Box," people inhabiting the moon display the artificiality that runs rampant in our society. The moon is called "the box", and its buildings harbour sterile environments and artificial people whose actions and responses are robotic and automatic. The only life in this harsh environment can be seen in the images at the windows, images that are transferred from Earth.

The collection also includes stories by James Alan Gardner, Eileen Kernaghan, Sally McBride, David Nickle, Karl Schroeder, Michael Skeet, Peter Watts and Robert Charles Wilson.

Both science-fiction fans and amateurs alike will find the stories in this collection entertaining, and often educational. These stories provoke the reader to think about, and reflect on, the state of our current society and world - where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.

CULT.HIT

THE CHURCH OF EATON

BY TYLER HARGREAVES

Ever since nomads settled down and formed sedentary communities, people have needed gathering spots to participate in certain activities. These meeting places are used to barter and exchange goods, listen to music, enjoy group meals, and form the basis of group decision-making and rule-making. Inevitably, as people congregate, they eventually see the benefit in joining together to work out group conventions and practices. Basic government and civil society find their roots in such an environment. To oversimplify, in Western society these groups eventually evolved into the Church and the nation-state. People met in churches and decisions were made by states.

In the Catholic tradition, churches provided a grand building with artwork where people could meet to sing music, heal themselves through confession, and meet with other members of their community. The decline of the role of religion in Western society is well documented and the ways in which people fill the gap in their lives, if they do, is varied.

Walking through the Eaton Centre it is difficult to ignore the way the mall acts as a community magnet. Montreal is a big city and the same people aren't meeting each other every week at the Eaton Centre, but consider the parallels. The building itself pokes out from the surrounding shops and acts as a spoke in the commerce wheel of downtown St. Catherine Street West.

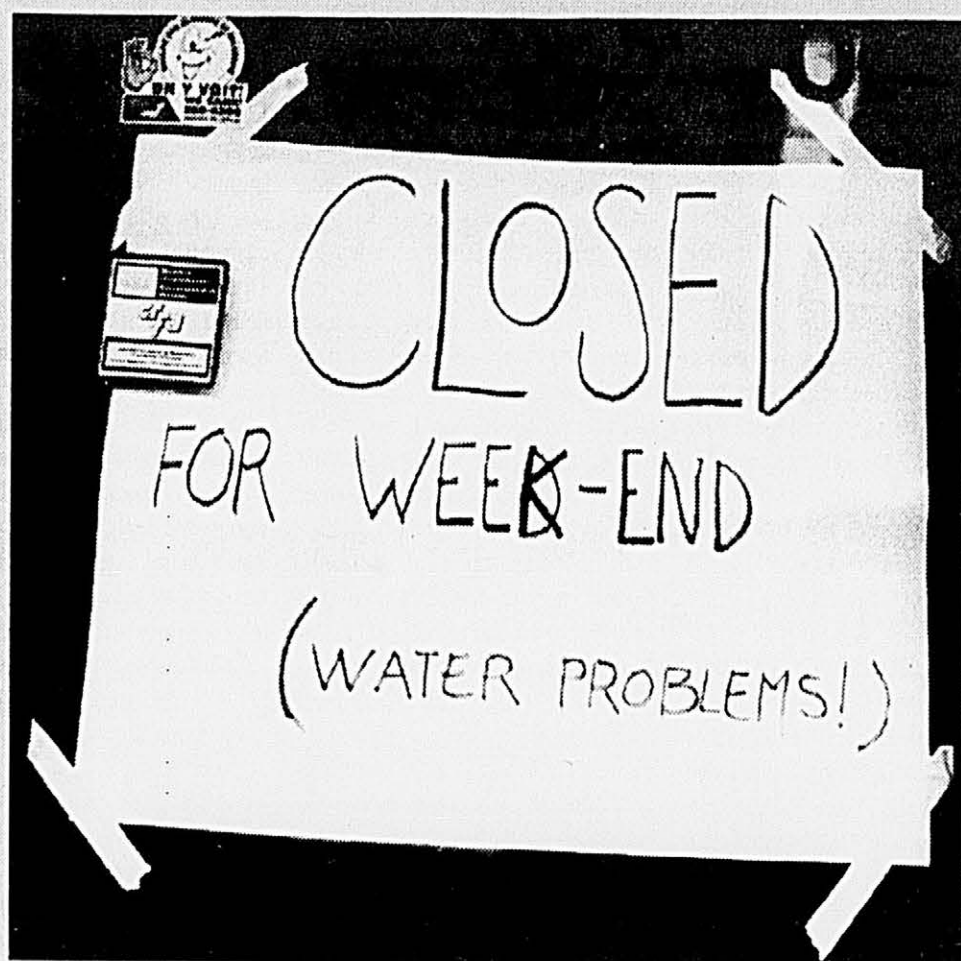
Inside the building, the glass ceiling soars stories above the wandering crowds and the rectangular-shaped mall forces your gaze down the length of the walls. The altar is nowhere to be seen but the shape and style are eerily familiar.

Thanks to the popularity of commercial radio, MTV, and its Canadian equivalent, the pop hits of the day that play over the PA are songs that most people share. While people aren't all reading from hymnbooks, they are sharing a musical canon.

I think that few people can deny having gone to the mall to shop to make themselves feel better after a bad day or some disappointment. This is no substitute for a confession for sins, but the similarity is striking.

Instead of going to a church or other meeting place, we are going to the Eaton Centre. It satisfies the same ends while avoiding all the benefits of religious guidance. The building shapes our self-perception while we shop, but offers no art. We feel better by buying pullovers, but we don't learn anything about trying to live a better life. We all listen to music that we know, but we aren't interacting with it or each other. Malls are our modern churches but fail to provide the guidance that made religious institutions the centre of community life in Western society.

Cult.Hit is a commentary column on how popular culture influences the way we lead our lives. It appears every Monday.



Props to Raekwon

Chef Raekwon cooks up phat rhymes on Montreal stop

BY RICKY C. GORDON

Rap Don, Raekwon, of the Wu Tang Clan enticed a full house at Sona with a "bag full of treats" on February 26. He lived up to the hype of the concert with hits from past days with the Clan and new ones from his latest solo LP, *Immobility*.

He came out on stage clad in a Montreal Canadiens home jersey and said, "Bonjour Montreal, y'all look good." He continued by saying that the show would be in memory of the fallen rap artist Big Pun, who recently died of a massive heart attack.

Raekwon then proceeded to lay down tracks like "Crème" and "It's Yours" which opened doors for him to branch out into other solo joints. "Ice Cream," from

with their knowledge base. The love was maddening and he sung out an overall message of self-empowerment on tracks like "Power," "Yae Yo," "Heart to Heart" and the final head banger called "Live from New York." The latter one prompted the three-time chant of peace under the command of Raekwon. He definitely left the audience wanting more and anticipating another return to Montreal without an eleven o'clock curfew that was in place at Sona.

A diverse audience primarily made up of black and white youths were very live and receptive to Raekwon's lyrics. The scene was dark, dungeon-like, and everyone was packed together. The fans of rap and specifically of Raekwon came out in numbers to see the show that also showcased notable local acts like E.P. and Alliance. Sabrina Jafraie, a member of E.P. and a McGill student, said, "Raekwon was good, but he could have given the crowd a bit more from his first album."

The trendy influence of rap on the youth is one which does not show any sign of letting up, and Montreal is now becoming a profitable site for major rap acts to cash in. Chef Raekwon left Montreal with the promise of more goodies in the future and urged continued support for all Wu Tang Clan projects.



Raekwon was anything but immobile for the Montreal show.

Only Built 4 Cuban Linx, was another big-time favourite amongst his supporters. Raekwon and his associated group, American Cream Team, used this part of the show to invite a variety of beautiful women to share the stage with them.

Raekwon proved to be an ultimate showman and succeeded with his ability to involve the crowd in the enjoyment of the show. A majority sang along to each song and impressed our rap allies from New York

A Penny For Your Thoughts

Penny Lang coming to Montreal



Montreal-born "folk mama" sets out to hug the world with her latest album, *Somebody Else*, a combination of feel-good vibe with an emotionally powerful observation of the human condition. Guitar licks and solid bass lines, featuring son Jason Lang and Basil Donovan of Blue Rodeo fame, surround Penny's raspy, warm melodies.

The hauntingly beautiful ballad "Power of the Earth" is reminiscent of Lang's Yellow Door days. Once more, "Love Minus Zero/No Limit" is a Dylan cover that conjures up the feel of a long car ride home on a rainy day.

Deeply respected by music-lovers and musicians alike, Penny Lang is old-school Canadian folk yet she says that *Somebody Else* is "the album I should have made when I was 18." Thankfully, Lang waited until now to give her fans the opportunity to listen to this folk, blues, and country smorgasbord.

Penny Lang will be playing at Café Campus on March 8. As part of Café Campus' Blues Series included in the line-up are Jackie Robinson and Dawn Tyler. 6\$ at the door. -Gabe Flores

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19

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Whites Paint Blacks

New Exhibit mixes colours on and off canvas

BY SARAH COHEN

Part of human nature is to judge and be judged. There are few ways to escape it. In art, artists might not be supposed to judge their subject, but at the very least, they observe and represent what they see.

Behind this philosophy are paintings, sculptures, drawings, and photographs spanning two centuries and representing black girls and women: at work or at rest, as specific individuals or general stereotypes, clothed or naked. The show demonstrates the persistent historical interest in the black female subject by white Canadian artists. The purpose of the exhibition is to re-examine the historical context within which the works were produced and to raise important questions surrounding ingrained beliefs about the power and function of art, and the historical significance and dominance of colonial ideals of race and sex.

The objectives are ambitious, but the exhibition succeeds in making the visitor wonder about the meaning of black women as subject in art.

Some of the titles are: *Negro Girl with*

Red Flowers (Yvonne McKougue Housser), *Négresse*, *Dark Girl* (Lawren P. Harris, 1937), *Portrait of a Negro Slave* (Francois Malépart de Beaumont, 1786). Obviously, those are not terms that would be used today because of their racist connotation. But even while relocating the paintings in the context of the time, questions arise about the artistic process. White artists of the colonial time were fascinated by exoticism, and sought black women as an ideal subject for its representation. Should we then examine this art as a form of colonial discourse? The works help us ponder the thought.

What is interesting is that most of the portraits represent sad women. In their eyes, there is this melancholic and absent gaze, as if happiness was not their due. The colourful backgrounds that surround their bodies are not there to brighten the painting but to illustrate the exotic context. Thus, the red flowers behind the naked body or the traditional ruddy hat encircling the extremely beautiful faces mainly reinforce the sorrow. It sometimes conveys an impression of naivete. Some of the portraits are reminiscent of Gauguin's work.

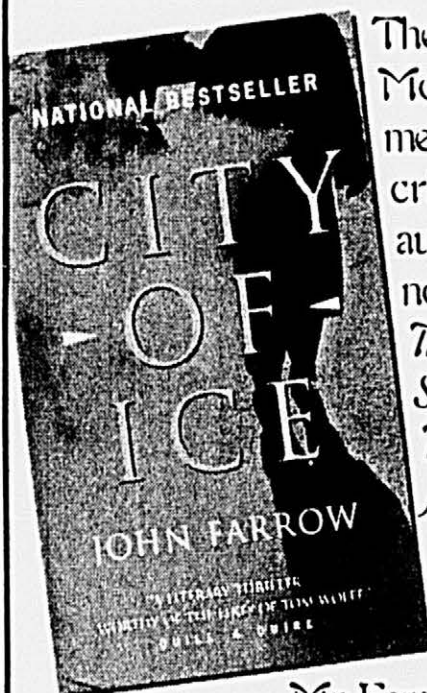
In other paintings, the artists use the black women as completely abstract sub-

jects. This is the case for the various scenes of labouring black women. In *Market Place* (Yvonne McKougue Housser) none of the women are distinguishable from the mass. All the women have traditional baskets on the top of their heads, and are bustling about. There is no representation of black women as hospital staff or teachers because this was not the social role that they had at the time.

It is nice to walk through the different works of the exhibition. The paintings are colourful. The portraits represent wonderful women with attractive bodies or girls in Sunday dresses. Some of the scenes show the traditional life and others offer a view of the black high society. The collection is enriching. What matters is that the visitor can feel uncomfortable when thinking about what was in the artist's mind: was it a mere will to realize a portrait or a clear claim for social and racial difference between the artist and the subject? It is hard to judge.

The exhibition "Through another's Eyes: White Canadian Artists - Black Female Subjects" will be held until March 18th at The Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery of Concordia University.

An Evening with Trevor Ferguson



The McGill Society of Montreal invites you to meet Trevor Ferguson, critically-acclaimed author of many novels, including *The True Life Adventures of Sparrow Drinkwater*, *The Timekeeper*, *Oryx John*, *The Kinkajou*, *High Water Chants* and his most recent book *City of Ice*.

Mr. Ferguson will discuss his books and what motivated him to embark on a literary career. Please call to reserve.

Date & Time:
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Information:
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THE ART DUMMY

Holy Porno Batman

BY JOHN ORTVED

Ha Ha Hollywood, Eric Ladouceur is smarter than you. While *The Beach* was being panned by the critics, I got to see Batman's penis.

The two are related. The connection lies in the work of one Eric Ladouceur: artist. Ladouceur's exhibit *Through Super Heroes et autres mensonges* intelligently and insightfully tears away at the social barriers that separate childhood innocence and adult sexuality. And you get to see The Joker doing it doggy-style.

The joke's on Leo. If you go and see Eric Ladouceur's exhibit, you will never look at comic books the same way again. You will giggle at Batman and your sides will split whenever you see The Black Cat in an awkward stance. Ladouceur will change the way you see these images of our childhood. He has made the connection between pornography and comic books heroes: thank you Jesus.

His art contains graphic sexual images, maybe from *Swank* (I read it for the articles), displayed on baseball-sized cards. Inscribed on each card is the name of a super-hero. In front of the image is a sketch of that super-hero, fully clothed in his or her specific costume, but in the exact same position as the subject of the sexual act on the card behind it. The fascinating part is that

these are the exact positions in which we would find these super-heroes in a comic book. Next time you nostalgically look at the comic rack, remembering your childhood filled with Spiderman and Doctor Octopus, take a closer, more Freudian look at where the good Dr.'s tentacles are landing.

Back to Leo. A little disclaimer: I like the work of Leonardo DiCaprio. I think he is fine actor. I admire him for his work in *This Boy's Life*, *Total Eclipse* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

While Ladouceur was giving insight into the popular culture we worship and tearing away our perceptive barriers, DiCaprio was tearing around a beach, smoking dope. But he does it in front of millions of people, Ladouceur doesn't. The only relevance to be found in *The Beach* is its role as yet another example of the insipid power of the commercial arts. *The Beach* does nothing. It changes nothing, it carries no message; it is a thematically-weak interpretation of a novel already ensconced in thematic superficiality. Ladouceur's work, on the other hand, has something to say and will probably affect your perceptions.

The contrast is not between the relevance of the two art forms, it is a contrast of what we value in art. Leo's *The Beach* will be seen by millions of viewers and will,

probably, leave all of them unaffected. But it will be seen by millions. Ladouceur's exhibit, *Through Super Heroes et autres mensonges*, will be seen by very few people, comparably, but will leave most of its viewers with new ideas about super heroes.

So who's on top? I can't say, but if you check out this exhibit, you'll know it definitely isn't Robin.

Through Super Heroes et autres mensonges runs at 372 St. Catherine W. Suite 403 until the 11th of March. Call 874-9423 for hours.



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Nomination kits available at McGill Daily Office, room B07 and B03. Candidates will be announced between March 1 and March 9.

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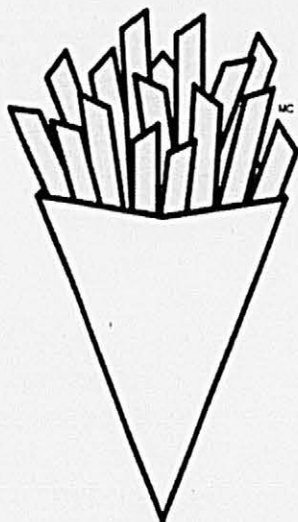
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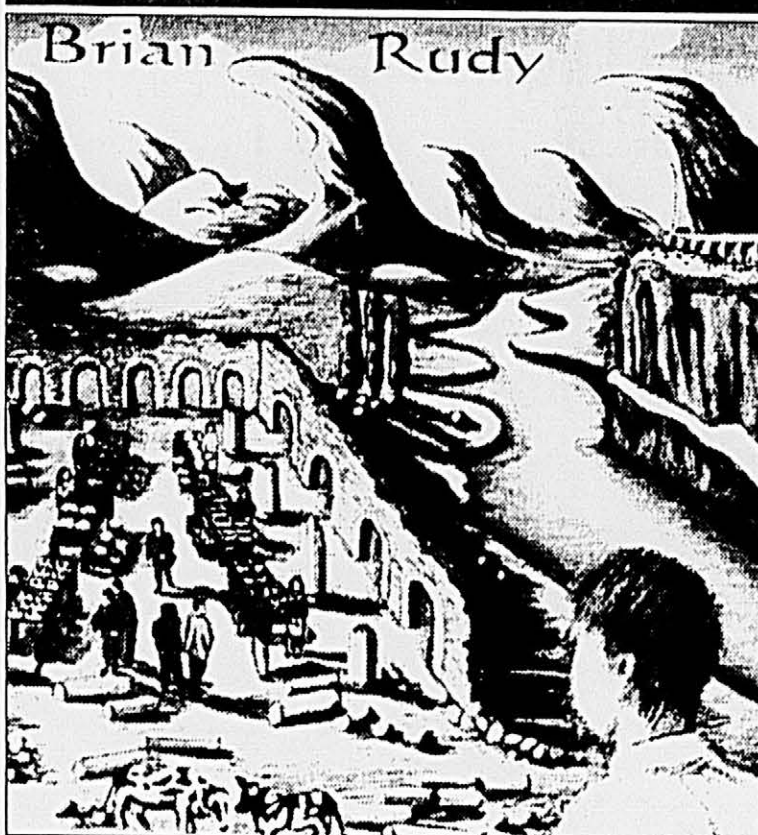
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CD REVIEWS



DIVIDED MAN
BRIAN RUDY
(THINK MUSIC TANK)

Folk music is often overlooked as a source of creative innovation, which is pretty ironic considering how much contemporary rock and pop really derived from different forms of folk music (notwithstanding those aspects which were derived primarily from computer programming). There's no shortage of creative energy in Brian Rudy's disc *Divided Man*, a whirlwind tour through varying tempos, textures, instrumentations, and lyrical themes.

Evoking everything from Phish's "Divided Sky" on the opening track "Nietzschean Slip" with aggressive chords and piano-guitar interaction, to road-trip country, and even the emerging fiddle-and-siren-song Canadian folk archetype, "The Cattle Run," the album is evidence that Brian Rudy has many ideas to share.

This brings us to the question of virtuosity: are these performers up to the task of conveying all of these ideas and trying all these different styles on for size? Oh, baby. Rudy has assembled a tremendous group, aptly named "Group Rudy," to support him and their telepathic communication is

reminiscent of a tight jazz combo: on guitars, Rudy himself and Brent Klassen; two drummers, Gavin Brown (Danko Jones and Big Sugar) and Dave Clark (of the Rheostatics); bassist Tom Daniels; and pianist Kevin Ranney complement most of the tracks while Cate Friesen and Lori Cullen provide guest female vocals. Sheila Gruner also contributes violin to several tracks.

Though there is a lot of variety in pace and feel from song to song, there is a melodic motif that ties the album together. This is sometimes strange, it feels as if the songs should sound alike but somehow don't.

This isn't helped much by Rudy's earnest, but not quite comfortable singing: his voice has a consistent quality across the songs that neither quite settles into the music, nor really "sells" the stylistic theme of each individual piece. However, his lyrics, writing and his guitar licks provide the album with what amounts to a narrative voice. It's not a disc you'll put on to enter "chill mode" or to out any serious moves. This is essentially a folk album, and that music is best for one specific thing: listening. You will find listening to this CD very rewarding.

—Ian Muskat

BLOODFLOWERS THE CURE (WARNER)

What has happened to my hair idol Robert Smith? Yes, the hair is intact on the cover of last week's newest addition, *Bloodflowers*, to The Cure's canon but once I got past plastic wrap and the liner notes, all was not well. Having already been exposed to the Pet Shop Boys' recent attempt at recycling themselves, I was hardly in the mood for Robert to undertake a similar creative dead-end.

Sure enough though, there it is: an album which seems to be a vague attempt at extending the wonderful harmonic beauty of earlier efforts, "A Letter to Elise" and "Jupiter Crash" immediately come to mind, from *Wish* and *Wild Mood Swings* respectively. Music that had been so good at describing everything falling apart at the seams, actually seems to be itself coming apart on *Bloodflowers*.

I know it's harsh to hold them to past heroic efforts, but The Cure has always represented an 80's phenomenon that matured like good wine in the 90's. So yeah, I was expecting more than oversimplified, repetitive lyrics and the half-hearted attempts at reviving the gorgeous texturing of bass-lines (as seen before in efforts such as "Lovesong.")

The careful and coy storytelling that led me to fall in love with songs like "Friday I'm in Love" and "Close to Me" in the first place is overtly absent. Robert takes to making direct comments on life and irritatingly speaks to an absent "you" (bad break-up perhaps?) I wonder if he listens to his own music when he breaks up with someone? Please! Give me the fluid poetry of "Jupiter Crash" over this any day!

What the hell happened to writing pop songs? I have always believed, and still do, that this so-called "goth" band wrote some of the most inspiring, thought-provoking, and beautiful pop music of the last twenty years. But there is no "Just Like Heaven" or "Mint Car" to save this one. In fact, of the nine tracks, only one is under four minutes, and four are over six! Oh, and you certainly cannot dance to any of this nonsense. So I asked myself, if I can't dance to

this, and it doesn't engage me, what exactly is going on here? Why? Well, a dark, lamentable trip into a few corners of Rob's psyche should make things clear enough. We've got unrequited love, lost love, love that's gotten too old and stale, and finally Robert himself making acute declarations of creative suicide. "I've run right out of feeling and I've run right out of world and everything I promised, and everything I tried yeah everything I ever did, I used to feed the fire."

So we are left with, by the time the seven-and-a-half minute final track, also the title track, winds to a close with its painful screeching: glowing embers of what's gone, at least for now, for Robert and his gang. Someone should have warned them, there's just no such thing as resting in the canon and expecting to still impress. My advice, as if I should be dishing any is to take some risks next time.

—Jason Rebel

ANGIE STONE BLACK DIAMOND (ARISTA)

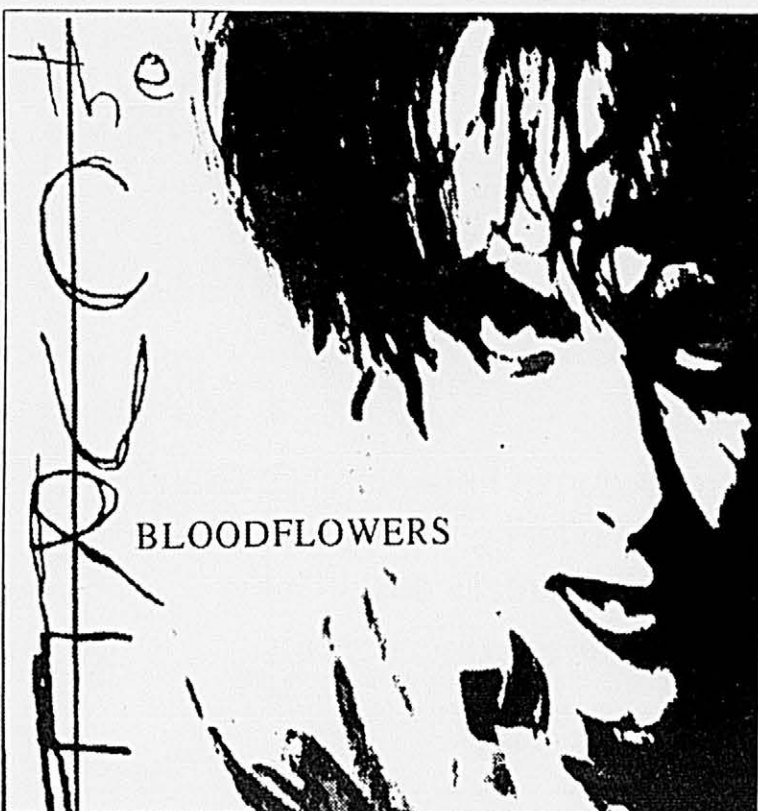
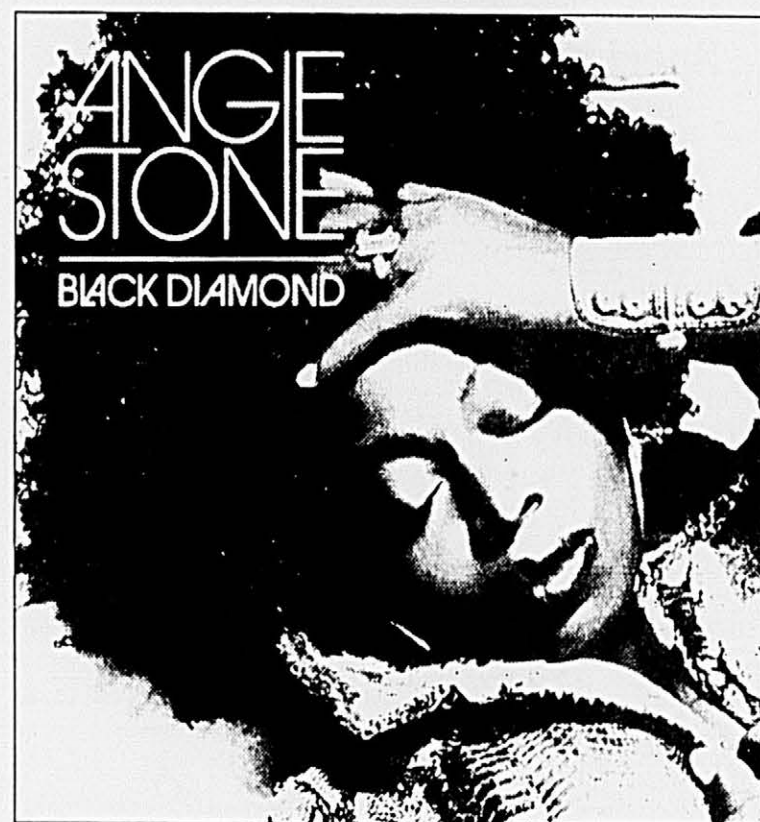
Straight-up, Angie Stone is the bomb.

She's got the pipes to blow away Lauryn, Mariah, and any other so-called divas. Stone's album, produced in part by Lenny Kravitz, Tribe's Ali Shaheed Muhammed, and the father of her child, D'Angelo, is both sultry and funky. But working with all these producers may have proven to be a nightmare. To that Stone replies, "With the different producers I worked with, more feelings were able to come through. And as an artist, you can only hope that this resonates with people."

The first single off *Black Diamond* is "No More Rain (In This Cloud)." It's a fresh Gladys-and-The-Pips-infused tune that is smooth. Stone believes the reason her music is finding an appreciative audience is because people can "find themselves in the lyrics," which she describes as warm, inviting, and inspirational, with a touch of subtle victory.

It's soul-food at its finest. D'Angelo, who now has a critically-acclaimed album, *Voodoo*, which has Grammy written all over it, wrote "Everyday," and there's a track by the late Marvin Gaye (check out "Trouble Man.") Dedicated to her daughter, after which the album is named, *Black Diamond* is a brilliant multi-faceted opus.

—Gabe Flores



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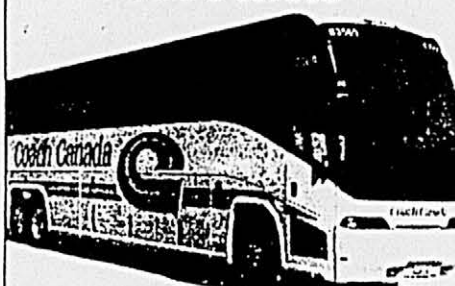
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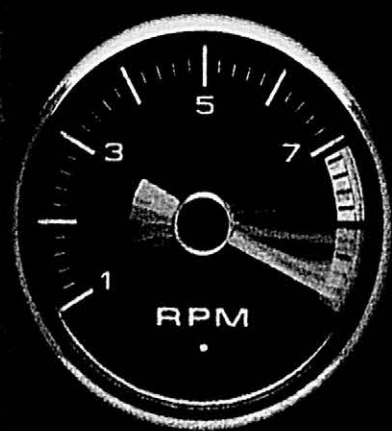
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